

ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER

SPOTTING FAKE NEWS & IDENTIFYING RELIABLE SOURCES

ISSUE 23

FAKE NEWS

It can be difficult to know what information online is real and what isn't. 'Fake news' is content that may look like a genuine news story but includes misleading or false information.

It is important that children understand how to identify what is fake. Talk about warning signs, such as exaggerated headlines or unusual claims.

A simple rule to share is "if something sounds too surprising or extreme, it's worth checking before believing or sharing it."



RELIABLE SOURCES

A **reliable source** is information from somewhere trustworthy, like a news article, book, or interview, that shares accurate details about something. Organisations like *BBC News* use verified sources to make sure their reporting is accurate.

'Fake news' sites usually lack reliable sources. Any sources they do include may be made-up, exaggerated, or manipulated to fit the narrative that they are trying to push.

It is always important to check that reliable sources have been used.

APP SPOTLIGHT - X

This week's platform spotlight is **X**.

X (formerly Twitter) is a social media platform where users can share short posts, pictures, videos and message other users. It is used by celebrities, influencers, and organisations.

Because content spreads quickly, not everything shared is accurate. Children may come across misinformation or inappropriate content.



- X's minimum age is **13+**, but is recommended for ages **18+**.
- Make sure your child's account is set to private to limit who can contact them and interact with their posts.

Scan the QR code to learn more:

