Misinformation
Parent Guide ———• Everything you need to know about fake news and critical thinking

What is misinformation?

Misinformation is content that is **misleading and incorrect, but not deliberately so.** People spread misinformation in good faith, **believing it to be accurate.**

What does misinformation look like?

Misinformation includes inaccurate articles, manipulated images and videos, fake quotes, or 'misleading posts or comments. For example, **false claims** and **conspiracy theories** about Covid-19 cures and **anti-vaccination protests** or **extreme political posts.**

It makes it **harder to spot** what's true and what's not – **especially for children.**

How can I help my child avoid misinformation?

Help them practice **critical thinking**. This is a process of **questioning** what you look at online – and what it is **trying to do.**

Your child should consider the **source.** Is it a **website they know?** Does the **web address look right?** Is there anything **odd about it?**

It is good to **check reliable sources,** like the BBC, or **fact-checking websites.** Encourage your child to find **at least one reliable source** for the information they see.

What else should I consider?

Misinformation on social media can also be in **a post or a comment in a chat forum.** Challenge your child to question **what someone is saying** and **why they are saying it.**

What can I do if I find misinformation online?

Some online platforms are now **doing more** to notify users when a source is **unidentified or could contain misinformation.**

Help your child explore **reporting functions** on the platforms they use. Some social platforms now have a **false information option** when **reporting a post.**

Anything else I should know?

Misinformation can be **confusing** and **upsetting.** Encourage your child to come to you if they feel **worried or unsure** about anything they have seen.

Fostering their **critical thinking** is a key part of **digital resilience**, so be **open** and **discuss the risks together.**

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