

Online information checklist

Before using a website

Does the look of the website match the type of information included?

If random pictures or cartoon characters are used to illustrate serious information, encourage the children to be wary of the content of the website.

Do the website's sentences have accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar?

If there are spelling and punctuation mistakes and the sentence structures aren't accurate, the information included on the website also might not be correct.

Have you heard of the website before?

The BBC, National Geographic and Encyclopaedia Britannica are all respected sources of information which can be trusted. If you have never heard of the website, encourage the children to be wary.

Is the author named on the website?

If not, the children should be suspicious. Genuine authors usually include their name with their work.

Does the author include links to other websites?

This is a sign that the information might be genuine as the author wants their readers to learn more about the subject beyond their website.

After using a website

Do all the facts you have collected sound possible?

Give time for the children to decide if the facts they have collected sound plausible. If they don't, the 'facts' might not be true.

Have you used one or two well-known, trusted websites to check the facts you have collected?

If the facts the children have collected only exist on one website, it is highly unlikely that they are true.

Have you checked to make sure that all dates are correct?

Sometimes the same event can have different dates on different websites. Encourage the children to use two or three well-known websites to check the dates they have found.

Have you corrected any mistakes in the information you have written down?

Make sure any false facts the children have collected are changed so they aren't passing on incorrect information in their work.