FREE RESOURCE PACK:
WHAT IS FAKE NEWS?

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- A free resource which outlines the key points related to each particular issue.
- In clear language, free of jargon and in easy to digest chunks.
- To engage students of all ages and learning styles and help them improve their understanding.
- To enthuse and engage young people and help create a positive learning environment.

This free resource introduces ‘What is Fake News?’

How Can We Tell the Difference Between True News and Fake News?

Ask the group for their definitions of news and then write the following on a whiteboard or flipchart:

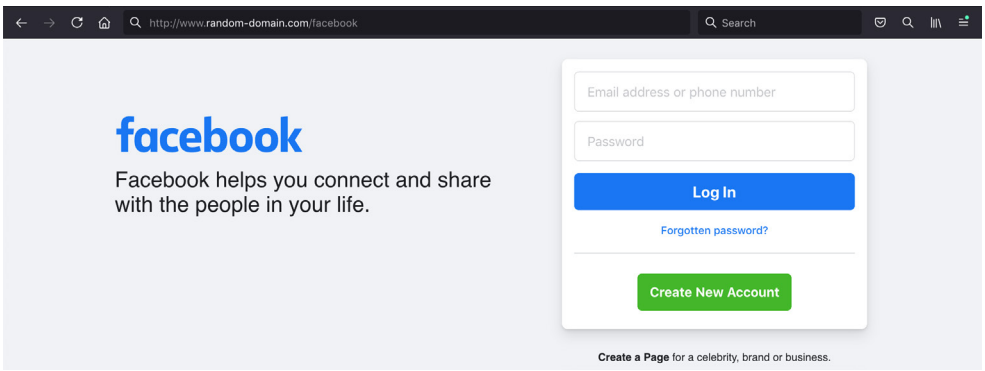
> ***‘News is information about current affairs, local, national and international events, and interesting stories from every part of the world about different people and places. News should inform, entertain and connect people and help them understand and make important choices about matters that will affect them in their daily lives.’***

The way we access news has changed over recent years. In the past people relied on newspapers, radio and television to find out what was happening in the world. Today the majority of people rely on digital communication via news websites on the internet and articles on social media. Think about your own understanding of the news and think about the following:

- How do you find out about what is happening in your community, your country, and around the world?
- Why do you think some events are reported in the news while others are ignored?
- How do we know if something we are reading online is true or false?

There are things to look out for when reading information online which will help you determine whether or not to trust something. They include:

- Who wrote the story? Is this website known for being a reliable source of accurate information, or has it just appeared online overnight?
- Look at the headline. Does it seem to be over the top, as if the writer is deliberately sensationalising the story?
- Is the story supposed to be a joke? Check the date—is it 1st April? If in doubt, check the story on Snopes (https://www.snopes.com). This is a reference source for jokes, myths, rumours and misinformation.
- Look at the url—does it mimic a well known website such as:



Don't just look at the webpage—check the url too.

- Have you seen other reputable news outlets reporting on the same story? Check a few reliable sources to establish whether or not it is true.

Questions to Ask Students

1. Have you ever believed an online story only to find out it was false?

2. How did you find out it wasn't true after all?

3. How did this make you feel?

4. Why do people spread false rumours online?

5. What do you think should happen to people who deliberately spread fake news?

We hope you found this free resource useful.

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(https://www.allresources.co.uk/questionnaires/what-is-fake-news/)

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