



Safer Internet Day 2021 is being celebrated around the world on Tuesday 9th February. The global theme is 'together for a better internet' and this year, the focus is on how young people can tell fact from fiction, and work together to create an internet we trust.

Everyone has their part to play in making the internet a better place. The following tips have been compiled by the UK Safer Internet Centre. They can be found <a href="here">here</a>. For further information see the links at the bottom of the page or visit our e-safety webpage. Go to www.woodlandwideweb.org.uk and search under 'Keeping safe'.

**Talk together:** How do your children use technology? Where they go for information online? Who do they follow? Listening to them will help you support them. Communication is the key to identifying online misinformation.

**Set an example:** If you come across a fake news story, or a phishing email, discuss with your child how you spotted it and what you did next. Ask them what they would do. They may have already heard about it or seen something similar online. Seeing a parent actively question and evaluate online content teaches young people the importance of doing the same.

**Think before you share:** It can be tempting to share surprising or attention-grabbing online content, but make sure you fact-check any links before you do. If it comes from a parent, children may believe it without questioning it. This is another chance to set a good example in sharing information responsibly online.

Check in with your child: False or misleading content online can be upsetting and confusing. Young people may feel powerless when faced with the amount of unreliable content they see. Check in with your child. Ask them how what they see makes them feel and reassure them that you are there to talk about things that upset them and to support them with how they feel.

**Seek help and support:** Make sure you talk to others about anything you are unsure of. You may find other parents or carers who are in a similar situation. There are also lots of organisations that can offer help. Take steps to support your children by reporting inappropriate content and use privacy settings in apps, games and social media sites.





internet matters.org

UK Safer Internet Centre Childnet Internet Matters