

# Misinformation & Fake News

Misinformation, fake news, disinformation... so many different ways of describing how we can be deceived, either deliberately or unintentionally with misleading information.

People are encouraged to think critically about what they read, see and view so that they can spot misleading or bad information, and resist sharing content that might be false or out of context.

## How to identify fake news

- **Approach what you read or hear with common sense.** Question why it would have been written, whether it is attempting to change your viewpoint, sell you something, redirect you to another website or simply shock you.
- **See who else is reporting the story.** Check to see if reputable, widely-respected news feeds and websites have also covered the news you have seen.
- **Research the source.** Find out more about the publisher, for example whether it is a reputed, normally reliable source or the personal blog of an individual. See if you can find unbiased reviews of the source.
- **Check facts.** Real news is often backed up by official data, surveys and previous, similar instances of the occurrence being reported. Often, it is quite clear that fake news is an opinion, or is simply made up.
- **Check images.** Photos or illustrations accompanying fake news are often retouched to reinforce the story, and often this is not done very well.
- **Use your instincts.** Remember that if something sounds too strange, unreal or weird to be true, it often is.



## BE A VOICE THAT HELPS STOP THE SPREAD OF FAKE NEWS

Raise awareness within your family, friends, and associates about the dangers of fake news. If you notice that someone is sharing fake news, speak up. Alert the person and their audience that the "news" item they posted or shared is false. Tell them about the tips and resources in this guide so they will know how to identify fake news and help combat it.

