Fake news

Fake news is false or misleading information that is presented as fact.

Articles or posts that have extreme titles, come from strange websites, or are trying to sell something, may not be trustworthy.

Never take things you see online at face value and always question what you read/watch. If something sounds unrealistic – it probably is!

You can report fake news on most social media sites.

Useful websites

Northumbria Victim and Witness Service
https://nvws.northumbria.police.uk
Advice Line: 0800 0113116

Rape Crisis Tyneside and Northumberland
https://rctn.org.uk
Helpline: 0800 0352794

CEOP Reporting Sexual Exploitation
www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting/

NSPCC Reporting Abuse
www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/
reporting-abuse/report/

Childline Advice on Online Safety
www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/

Citizens Advice Information on Scams
www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/
check-if-something-might-be-a-scam/

For More Information:

If you would like more information, please visit our website.

If you have been affected by any of the issues described in this leaflet you can talk to a Counsellor or a Youth Worker at a Streetwise drop-in.

Advice is FREE and CONFIDENTIAL.

Produced by: Streetwise Young People's Project:

Young People's Information, Advice, Counselling, Sexual Health and Support Service for 11-25 year olds.

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YOUNG PEOPLE'S PROJECT

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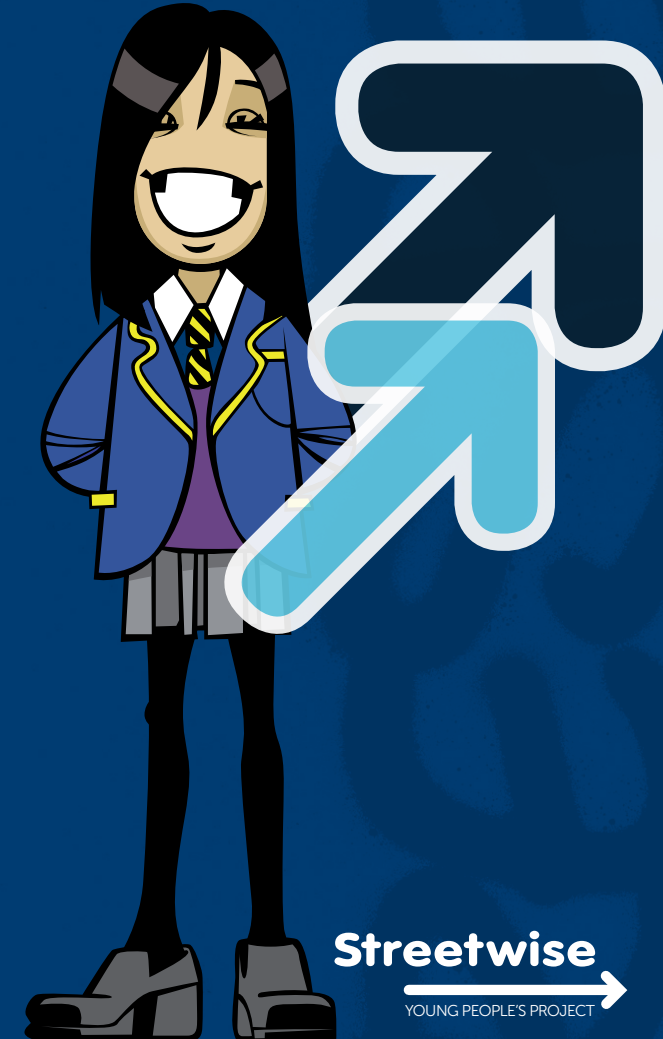▶ @streetwisenorth
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www.streetwisenorth.org.uk

SCAN ME

The Streetwise guide to
Being Safe Online

Streetwise
YOUNG PEOPLE'S PROJECT

What are the risks of using the internet?

The internet can be a great tool and lots of fun to use, but there are also risks associated with using the internet:

There are scams on the internet that aim to take your personal information, change your identity, steal money, or hack into your accounts and devices.

Some people online pretend to be someone that they're not to exploit or abuse other people.

Once you post something online, it remains online, you lose control of it and other people can share it, save it, or send it to people like teachers or parents.

How do you prevent risk when using the internet?

- Don't put personal information on social media, including where you go to school or pictures of your school uniform or house number.
- Use a strong password that has a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols.
- Use different passwords for different websites. A password manager can help with this.
- Cover your laptop webcam with a post-it note or another gentle adhesive.
- Update your privacy settings on all social media to private.
- Don't post anything you wouldn't want a parent, teacher, or boss or potential perpetrators to see.

Online friendships

In general, it's best not to accept friends online if you don't know who they are or meet these unknown online friends offline as it's easy for them to pretend to be someone they are not, they can easily post false information about themselves, including their age.

If you're meeting an online friend offline, do it in a public place in the daytime, tell a trusted adult about the meeting or better still bring a trusted adult/friend with you and keep in touch with your parent/carer.

Grooming

Some people will try to use the internet to build an intimate relationship with a child or young person to manipulate them into doing something that they might regret or they can exploit or abuse them. This is called grooming.

Some signs of grooming include:

- Giving you lots of attention, compliments and gifts.
- Asking you to keep them a secret.
- Asking you to share personal information.
- Trying to isolate you from friends.
- Trying to threaten, blackmail, or guilt trick you into talking to them or doing sexual things.
- Sending you inappropriate or sexual messages or questions.

If you think you or someone else is being groomed, talk to a trusted adult and report the person doing it. This can be to the police, CEOP, or the NSPCC.

Online scams

Online messages known as 'scams' can try to trick you into giving up money or personal information, or they might try to upload a virus on your device.

Phishing is a type of scam where someone pretends to be a company to trick people into giving up money or personal information.

These are some signs that something is a scam or phishing attempt:

- It's too good to be true (e.g., it says you've won a free phone).
- It contains a threat such as closing your account or charging you money.
- It asks you to click a suspicious link, sometimes saying its urgent.
- You've been messaged out of the blue.
- It asks you for money or personal information such as your password.
- The email address is very suspicious and it doesn't link to authentic organisation.

What to do if you think sometihng is a scam

- Don't panic and don't rush into doing anything!
- If you're not sure whether a message is really from a company, look up their website or telephone number and talk to a member of the team.
- Report it as spam and block the person who sent it.
- NEVER reply to messages from suspected scammers.