

• **WHO CAN PUT STUFF ON THE INTERNET?**

Anyone can! This is great because now it's easy to find out just about anything. But you have to be careful. Just like in real life, people on the internet can make mistakes and tell lies. Sometimes on the internet it's even harder to know if someone is telling lies because you can't see them.



THINK ABOUT IT!

HOW CAN YOU TELL IF SOMEONE'S TELLING LIES IN REAL LIFE?

• **HOW DO I KNOW IF WHAT I SEE ON THE INTERNET IS TRUE?**

There are a few ways of checking. Find out who owns the website. Do they have a good reputation? If you're not sure, ask your teacher. Compare what you see on the internet with information from other places, like books and magazines. Compare what you see on the Internet with what you already know. Look for a date on the website. If the website is very old, the information might be out of date. The Padlock icon indicates whether a site is secure. Keep an eye out for https:// at the beginning of a website address. The "s" in https stands for secure, and all secure websites should start with https.

• **ARE THERE ADS ON THE INTERNET?**

Yes! There are lots and lots of ads on the internet — just like on TV. But on the internet, they can pop up anywhere. When you're reading or watching something it's important to know if someone's trying to sell you something.

THINK ABOUT IT!

HOW CAN YOU TELL IF SOMETHING YOU'RE READING IS AN AD?

• **IS IT OK TO COPY THINGS FROM THE INTERNET?**

If you want to copy something exactly from the internet and use it in a project or on your own website, you should: **Ask permission from the owner of the website to copy their stuff.** This is only fair since it's their work. When you copy the stuff into your own project or website, always say where you got it from. Again, this is only fair. Otherwise, it's like robbing the work they did.

THINK ABOUT IT!

HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF SOMEONE COPIED ALL YOUR HOMEWORK WITHOUT TELLING YOU?

- **WHY DO SOME SITES ASK ME FOR PERSONAL DETAILS?**

There can be times when you are required to give some personal information to a website, e.g. your name, address and telephone number when posting something you have purchased from them. However, some websites collect information about people so they know what kind of ads to show them. Then they sell this information to other sites. That's why sometimes you get emails from sites you never visited. This is called spam and it's against the law in the European Union.

- **HOW DO I KNOW WHAT A WEBSITE WILL DO WITH MY PERSONAL DETAILS?**

Remember! In Ireland the Digital Age of Consent is 16, this is the minimum age at which it is legal to hold data or personal information on children and teenagers that is gathered online. This also means that social media and internet companies cannot collect, process and store your data and sell it to advertisers. As a rule you should never sign up for online services including social media or online games without getting approval from your parents/guardians.



WOULD YOU MIND IF A WEBSITE SOLD YOUR NAME AND INFORMATION TO ANOTHER WEBSITE?

KEY TAKE-AWAY:

The internet is a great source of information but it is not always reliable. You should check other sources (websites, books and newspapers) and ask your teacher.

