Cymunedau
Digidol
Cymru
Hyder Digidol,
Iechyd a Lles

Digital
Communities
Wales
Digital Confidence,
Health and Well-being

Darparwyd gan
Delivered by

cwmpas

Rhaglen
Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government
Programme

Critical thinking online

How to use this document

These resources have been collated to support you alongside Digital Communities Wales: Digital Confidence, Health and Well-being (DCW) training.

We have included webpages within this document that contain helpful information for supporting others. We have included these as links in this document. Look out for the **pink link symbol,** which you can select with your curser or finger, to open and view the link.

If you are viewing a printed resource, either type the website address into a web-browser or scan the QR code to open the webpage.

How to scan a QR code

1. Open your QR code app on your device. On many modern smart phones, this is your camera app.
2. Point the camera at the QR code and ensure all of the code is in the frame.
3. Look at your screen to see if a website link has appeared. If it has, touch it with your finger and it will open the website!

What is critical thinking?

The internet is full of helpful information and opportunities. However, there is a lot of incorrect or misleading information online. So, we need to think critically when exploring the internet and learning about new things.

Critical thinking is the ability to effectively analyse information and form a judgement.

To think critically, you must be aware of your own biases and assumptions when encountering information, and apply consistent standards when evaluating sources.

Disinformation and misinformation

There are many ways people can spread false information online. The term **fake news** is used a lot. Misleading information reported as true could be used to damage the reputation of a person or organisation. Unfortunately it is often very believable and it is very easy to get caught out.

Disinformation – Fake or misleading stories created and shared deliberately.

Misinformation – This also means fake or misleading stories. In this case the stories may not have been deliberately created or shared with the intention to mislead.

Filter bubbles and echo chambers on social media

Social media is great for finding out breaking news or information. But, not all the information we see or hear is going to be true. It is important that we think before we share content we find on social media.

Filter bubble: This happens passively on social media. Your likes and interactions will effect the digital algorithm to only show things that supports the things you like and support.

Echo chamber: This happens by our own unconscious bias towards things we like or agree with. We end up only interacting with those of similar view points on social media because of this.

The problem is, that we lose impartiality and sometimes become exposed to quite polarised points of view without realising it. We could end up stuck in a bubble of misinformation and disinformation and not know it!

Find out more on **https://sharechecklist.gov.uk/**

AI, or Artificial Intelligence

Due to the rise in popularity of AI, we can now create images and videos that are completely fictional, but very realistic.

Pre-existing photos and videos can be manipulated, and false information can appear extremely believable or "Real."

This means we have to be even more aware misinformation and disinformation, and use critical thinking when seeing and sharing things online.
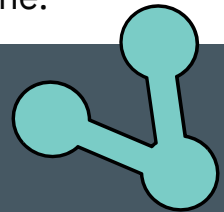
What next?

To find out more about our support, get in touch:

🌐 digitalcommunities.gov.wales/contact-us/ 🔗

📱 0300 111 5050   Find us on ✕ f 🦋