Research

The World Wide Web is a great platform that lets anyone share information and ideas. BUT, you need to think about whether the things you are viewing are reliable. Is it content that you can trust?

If you search carefully you can find reliable and trustworthy information. Once you have a list of results, you need to choose which links to click on. But how can you work out which are the reliable sites?

You need to look at the information and then use your best judgement. Below are a few tips to know what to click on:

Consider using the search engine '**Ecosia**' instead of Google - the more you search the more trees they plant around the world!

Useful Tips

Clarify

You first need to take a moment to consider what information you are actually looking for in your searches. Time spent defining what information you are looking for can lead to a more effective and streamlined research process. Do this before going on to the search engine.

Search

Type in only the important keywords to start with. If the initial results aren't what you want, change the keywords and get more specific, perhaps type in a question.

Check

- Look at the domain name. Do you recognise the address as one that you can trust? Addresses which end with .sch.uk, .ac.uk or .gov.uk are educational or government websites so are usually reliable.
- Once you have chosen a site, always be critical of what you read. If you have doubts about how reliable a piece of content is you can check it by looking at other sites. If they all say the same thing it is probably accurate. This is called 'verification'.
- It is also important to think about who has published a website. Why has it been written and published? Some websites might be biased or could give only one side of an argument. These sites might present their opinion as fact.
- Look at the date of the information - how old is it? If it's a few years old, how accurate is the information now?

Guidance for parents/carers keeping children safe online

Most children have a positive experience online, accessing educational resources and entertainment and connecting with friends and family.

Spending time online can be very beneficial for children, particularly at the moment, but we recognise that many parents may worry about online safety.

Reduce the risk.

UK Council for Internet Safety has guidance on minimising children's exposure to risks online.