

Kit's Digital Detective Log: Staying Safe Online

Learning objective: To understand how to recognise risks online, how to protect personal information, and how to seek help when using digital platforms.

Use this detective log to explore how to stay safe in the digital world. Think like Kit the fox—be quick-thinking, careful, and always double-check your facts before you share or post anything. Fill in each section thoughtfully to create your personal guide for safe browsing.

Word bank: Privacy settings · Digital footprint · Cyberbullying · Reliable · Personal data · Password · Reporting · Trustworthy

1. Defining Personal Data: Explain why it is vital to keep information such as your home address, school name, and passwords private. What might happen if this information fell into the wrong hands? (3 marks)

2. The Digital Footprint: Describe what a 'digital footprint' is. If you were to post an unkind comment or an embarrassing photo today, how might that affect your future reputation? (3 marks)

3. Evaluating Sources: Compare and contrast a reliable website with an untrustworthy one. What specific features or clues do you look for to justify that a website is safe to use? (3 marks)

4. Action Plan for Online Bullying: If you or a friend were to experience unkind behaviour online, justify the steps you would take. Why is 'telling an adult' the most effective first move? (3 marks)

5. Password Security: Explain how to create a 'strong' password. Why is it a poor strategy to use your name or birthdate? Create a formula for a secure password that doesn't use real names. (2 marks)

6. The 'Pause' Principle: Kit suggests pausing before you click or share. Explain why this habit is essential for maintaining safety and preventing the spread of misinformation. (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Creative Challenge: Design a 'Digital Safety Poster' for your classroom. Your poster must include a catchy slogan, three 'Golden Rules' for online behaviour, and an illustration showing a child using technology responsibly. Justify your chosen rules: why are these three specifically the most important for Year 5 pupils?