

Digital Detectives: Navigating the Online World

Learning objective: To identify potential online risks, understand the importance of personal data privacy, and demonstrate how to respond to uncomfortable digital interactions.

Read each scenario carefully. Use your knowledge of online safety, privacy, and digital citizenship to provide thoughtful, well-reasoned responses. Refer to the word bank if you need help with key terminology.

Kit the fox is an expert in computing and online safety. He reminds us that everything we post online creates a digital footprint that stays long after we hit 'delete'. Whether you are gaming, researching for a school project, or chatting, remember that you should never share your full name, home address, school name, or passwords with anyone you do not know in the real world. If something online makes you feel confused, sad, or worried, always tell a trusted adult immediately.

Word bank: Cyber-bullying · Digital footprint · Privacy settings · Personal data · Encrypted · Trusted adult · Phishing · Netiquette

1. Kit receives a message from an unknown user asking for his home address to send him a 'prize'. Explain why this request is suspicious and what steps Kit should take. (2 marks)

2. Define the term 'digital footprint'. Why is it important to consider your digital footprint before posting a comment or photograph? (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast 'private' information and 'public' information. Give two examples of each. (3 marks)

4. Imagine you see a classmate being unkind to another student in an online group chat. Justify why it is important to take action rather than remaining a silent bystander. (3 marks)

5. What might happen if someone uses a weak password for their online accounts? Suggest two features of a strong, secure password. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Digital Safety Shield'. On the shield, illustrate four symbols representing key online safety rules, such as a padlock for passwords or a speech bubble for reporting unkind behaviour.



Extension challenge: Write a short, persuasive 'Digital Charter' for your class. Include five golden rules for staying safe and being kind online. Explain why each rule is essential for maintaining a positive online community.