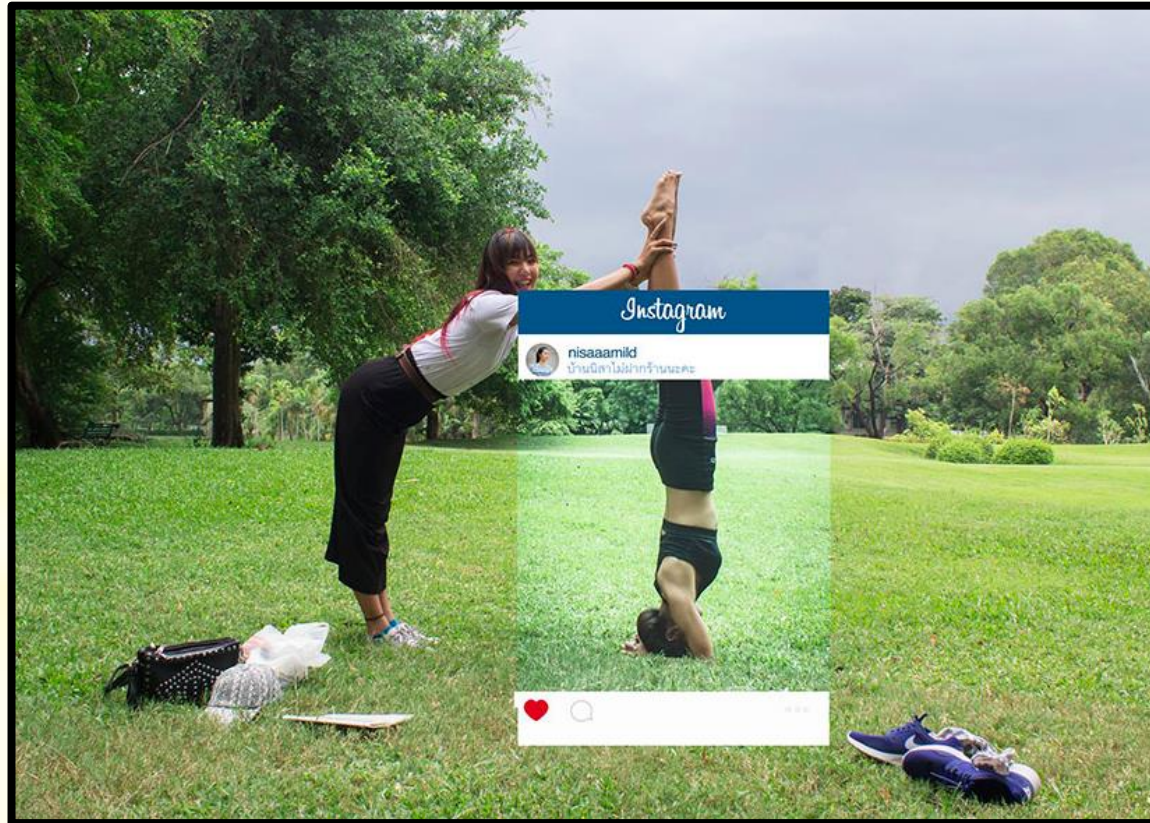


Building Digital Resilience



A brief guide to online risks and tools to protect yourself and others from harm in the digital space.

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- Fake News and Biased Writing
- Filter Bubbles and Echo Chambers
 - Hate Speech vs Free Speech
- Responding to Hate Speech Online
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Fake News and Biased Writing

FAKE NEWS

Articles or posts that appear to be factual, but which contain intentional lies, pretending to be facts, which are intended to influence people, attract viewers, or deceive them.

▪ Claim: You're exempt from council tax if you claim your home is a place of worship



A post claimed that homes used for religious purposes are exempt from Council Tax. Credit: PA

An image shared on Facebook purports that places of worship are exempt from Council Tax - but only if the worshippers are Muslim.

The post claims followers of Islam who use their living areas as a place to pray do not need to pay Council Tax. It also states these rules don't relate to other religions.

The image attached to the post shows a petition, first raised in 2013, based on the false facts.

Whilst certain buildings are exempt from Council Tax, claiming your home is a place of worship doesn't automatically make it exempt.

A 2018 briefing from the House of Commons said: "It is not possible for owners of domestic property to avoid council tax by claiming that their property, or part of it, is used for religious purposes."

BIASED WRITING

When a writer shows favouritism or prejudice towards a particular opinion, instead of being fair and balanced. It is used to push people towards a particular point of view.

THE MONTHLY RACER

MENU



Horse racing is the greatest sport on God's green earth!



Former jockey, Frankie Dettori reports

Filter Bubbles and Echo Chambers

FILTER BUBBLES

When users are suggested content based on their previous internet consumption habits, and can lead to them being separated from information that disagrees with their viewpoint.

ECHO CHAMBERS

Social spaces in which the same or similar ideas, opinions and beliefs are repeated within a closed group. This can stop people from appreciating other points of view on a topic.

The same story could look very different in one person's filter bubble and echo chamber compared to someone else's.

Horror from animal rights groups as cruel owner allows dog to cross busy motorway unsupervised.

Motorists angry and fed up as dog let off lead unaccompanied on busy road, causing delays.

Man's best friend- brave dog rushes to find help for its elderly owner.

Inspirational! Loyal dog receives award from leading animal charity for saving owner's life.

After another nearly fatal accident on our roads, should there be a law to keep dogs on leads?

Hate Speech vs Free Speech

Hate speech is speech which attacks a person or group on the basis of their race, religion, sexual orientation or their physical or mental disability.

A social media post threatens graphic violence against someone because of their religion.

You see comments under a social media post that racially abuse someone, making comments about their skin colour.

Someone posts an image of a disabled person on social media, and mocks their disability.

Free speech is the right to voice and share your opinions and ideas freely and without fear of retaliation.

Someone comments under an online video that it is “sexist and disgusting”.

Someone shares a news article asking whether politicians should be criminalised for misleading the public.

Someone posts on social media, stating that more people should become vegan.

Responding to posts online

You may come across a wide range of opinions on social media, which you might agree or disagree with. The chart below shows some potential outcomes when choosing how to respond to posts online.

	Flag/Report	Respond	Block	Ignore
What are the pros of this choice?	If the post breaches hate speech policies, it will be removed. This may reduce harmful content in future.	If you respond positively to open up dialogue, the person who posted might learn a different point of view and build empathy.	You will not have to see content which upsets or offends you. You will not have to communicate with the person who posted.	You are not drawing attention to harmful or offensive content, which reduces its appeal.
What are the cons of this choice?	If no dialogue happens, the person who shared the post might not learn that it is harmful or offensive to others	If you respond, the person who posted may react to your response in a harmful or offensive way. If you respond negatively, you may cause harm or offense to others and put yourself at risk of being reported.	If no dialogue happens, the person who shared the post might not learn that it is harmful or offensive to others	By not reacting at all, the person who posted may think it is acceptable to share harmful content and continue to do so.

Online Propaganda- Techniques

Whilst individuals may post explicit hate speech online, there are also groups who wish to promote violent or hateful agendas and ideas through the use of propaganda. Here are some of the techniques commonly seen in propaganda from sources ranging from adverts to extremist groups online.

ASSERTION

Saying something like it's a fact, but really it's just a statement that may or may not be true.

BANDWAGON

Being influenced to follow the crowd in order to fit in, because everyone else is doing it.

OMISSION

Missing out small facts which radically change the meaning of the message.

SCAPEGOATING

Blaming a problem on one person/a group of people, even though there could be other factors involved.

TRANSFER

Transferring what you think or feel about one thing onto another thing, for either good or bad reasons.

GENERALISATION

Making a judgement on something without being able to fully prove it.

LESSER OF TWO EVILS

Convincing you to make a bad choice by comparing it to something worse when there could be another option.

AMBIGUOUS WORDS

Using words or phrases which can be interpreted in many different ways to fit a particular context or agenda.

Online Propaganda- Themes

Here are some of the themes commonly seen in propaganda from extremist groups online.

IMAGE OF SUCCESS

This theme suggests that the group in question are winning and can offer an exciting and appealing life to those who join. Why settle for less?



STATUS AND BELONGING

By joining a particular group you will find others like you and you will be able to gain respect and responsibilities from members of your new community.



PERSONAL DUTY

This theme suggests to people that it is their personal duty to support the ideology of a group, whether it be about ethnicity, nationality, religion or politics.



WE THE "DEFENDERS"

This approach sets out a group or organisation as the ONLY one able to offer a meaningful defence against a perceived threat, whether domestic or from abroad. Often communications will show acts of kindness and support as a way of influencing people's perceptions.

#IS distributing winter clothes & other school supplies to students in Mosul schools. May Allah strengthen them.



Don't Be Fooled Online

The online world can be both a great source and a questionable source of information. Having identified some of the less reliable elements of the online space, take a look at the following tips to help you question the information you access digitally.

1. WHAT IS YOUR FIRST REACTION?

Are you angry, outraged, curious, excited?

Misinformation often tries to hijack our rational minds with strong emotional pulls.



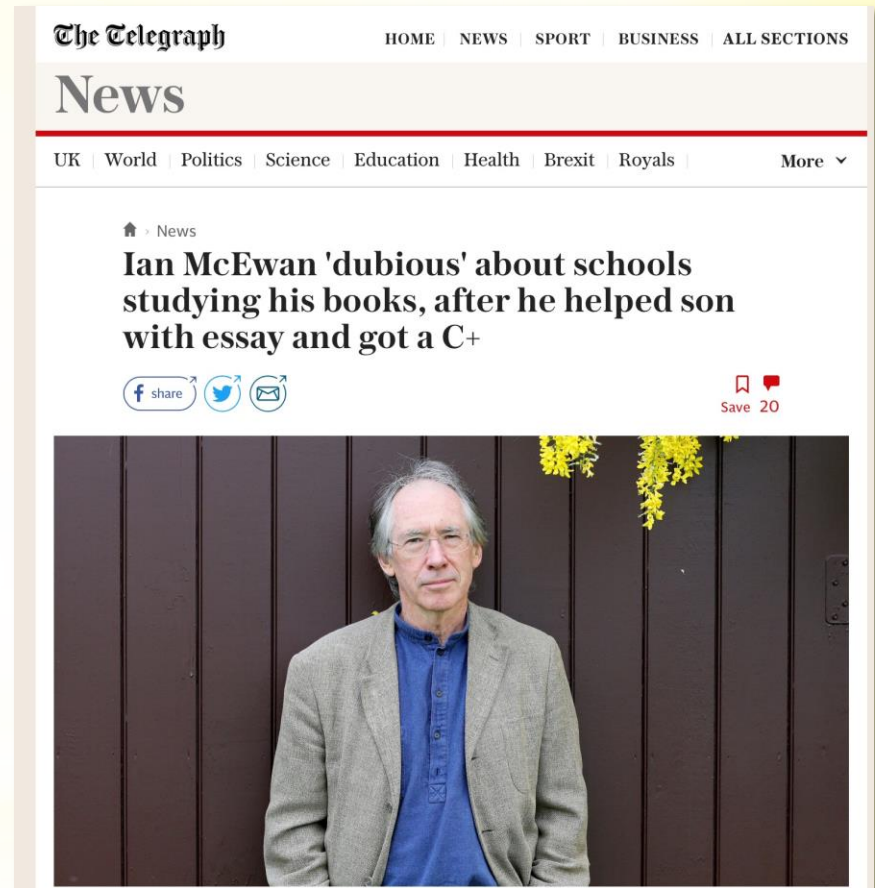
In 2016, Donald Trump's eldest son caused uproar on social media by comparing Syrian refugees to the fruit-flavoured sweets Skittles.

Don't Be Fooled Online

2. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF WHAT YOU ARE READING, WATCHING OR HEARING?

Is it a news report, opinion column, advert, satire etc?

What do you know about the source (news outlet, blog, meme generator)?



Don't Be Fooled Online

3. BE AWARE OF YOUR OWN BIASES.

Are your reactions a result of personal viewpoint or opinion?

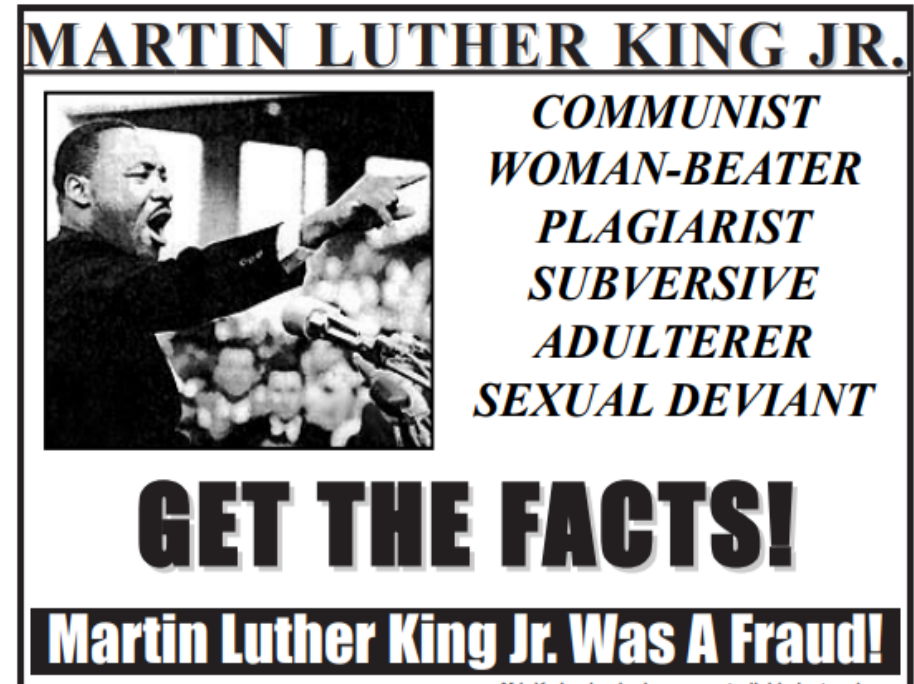
Try looking at a range of sources to consider other viewpoints.



Don't Be Fooled Online

4. CONSIDER THE MESSAGE

- ✦ Is it too perfect?
- ✦ Is it overtly or aggressively partisan?
- ✦ Does it use loaded language, excessive punctuation (!!!) or ALL CAPS for emphasis?
- ✦ Does it claim to contain a secret or tell you something that the media are covering or lying about?



An example of extremist propaganda using loaded language and assertion with no evidence

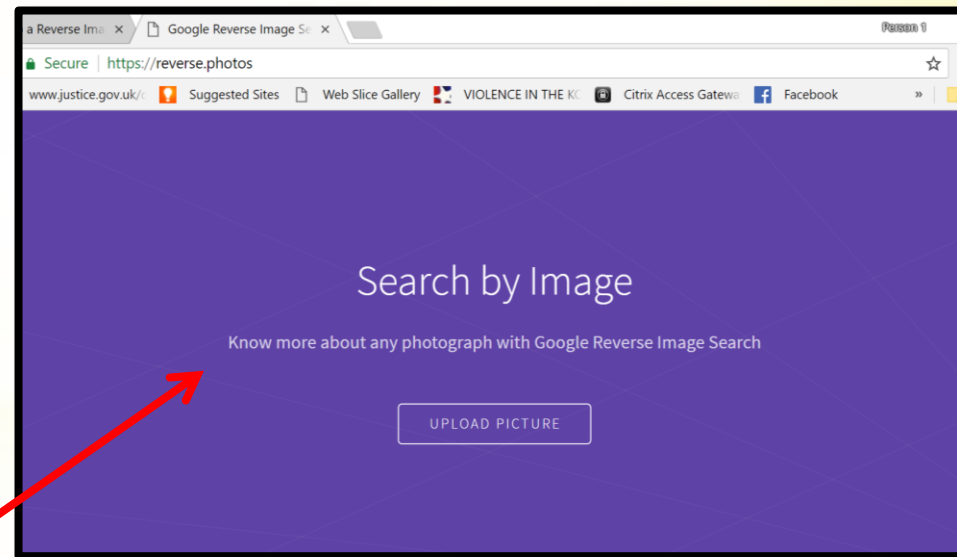
Don't Be Fooled Online

5. SEARCH FOR MORE INFORMATION

- ✦ Are reputable news outlets reporting the same thing?
- ✦ Have you checked independent fact-checkers?
- ✦ Where and when did the information originally appear?
- ✦ What is the web domain?
- ✦ Can you do an image search?



Snopes, Full Fact, BBC News Fact Check, and Channel 4 News Fact Check are useful!



Google can find the first time an image was put in the internet. You can then see if it's been altered!

Where to find further support

- Get Safe Online- <https://www.getsafeonline.org/protecting-yourself/>
- Let's Talk About It- www.ltai.org
- Vodafone Digital Families- <https://www.vodafone.co.uk/mobile/digital-parenting>
- Report online material promoting terrorism or extremism- <https://www.gov.uk/report-terrorism>
- NSPCC/o2 (Parental controls/settings/IT help) - 0800 800 5002.