



Fake News

Aims:

Introduce 'fake news' and the importance of reporting information truthfully.

Preparation and materials:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4o0B6IDo50> [accessed 05/20] (What is fake news? – Cyber Wise)

Assembly:

- Ask students to think about the question 'what is news?' Offer students a definition of news: "A printed, broadcast or digital report of factual information about important events in the world, country or local area." Ask students if this is a good definition of news? Are there any disagreements about this?
- Ask students to think about where they receive their news. How do they take it in and what format do they take it in? What might be the advantages and disadvantages of consuming your news through your favourite sources? Discuss any issues that arise between different news platforms.
- What is fake news? Describe the rise of fake news, post-truth and alternative facts terms that have become very popular recently. What is fake news? What is a fake news site? Why do people publish fake news? Is there a connection with social media?
- Watch the video introducing fake news and the accompanying issues. What are the consequences personally for believing or consuming fake news? What are the consequences nationally? What is the motivation behind writing them?





Reflection:

What virtues might be needed to navigate the issues of fake news? Have you developed these virtues? Is this an area of strength or weakness for you at the moment?

Challenge:

How can you engage your critical thinking skills more effectively? Is there an area of current events, politics or history you are interested in? Could you set yourself a challenge to inform yourself of a upcoming election or take an interest in the current global issues?

