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Schools Library Services UK
www.schoolslibraryservicesuk.org

Safe Internet Use

Fact or Opinion?

Did you know that:

- One in four 12-15 year olds make no checks at all when visiting a new website
- Less than one in ten ask who made the site and why
- Decisions about information quality are based on aesthetics and site design rather than more accurate checks
- One third of 12-15 year olds believe that if a search engine lists information, then it must be true*

*Bartlett, Jamie and Miller, Carl. Truth, lies and the internet: a report into young people's digital fluency. Demos, 2011



Photo by Tara Moore on Getty Images

Net-savviness is the practical knowledge of how the internet works, including how **search engines** seek to provide only the information they think we want. Net savviness is also a **safe-guarding** issue as one of the most effective ways of safe-guarding children is to give them the tools to protect themselves.

Pupils need to develop **critical evaluative techniques**, including the ability to do basic checks on **trustworthiness** and **accuracy** of information found on websites, and have an understanding of what is **fact** and what is **opinion**.

Schools Library Services can provide experienced Information professionals to work with schools to teach these skills, enabling pupils to become better independent learners.

