

# Introduction to Thinking Critically Online

## CROSS-CURRICULAR LINKS

Subject	England's national curriculum objectives Students should...	Application of Digital Matters
<b>English</b> Reading Comprehension	read books that are structured in different ways and read for a range of purposes	The virtual choose-your-own style format of Digital Matters allows children to explore a style of storytelling they may have never seen before and can be used as a basis for creating their own stories.
	increase their familiarity with a wide range of books	Children could be introduced to other types of choose-your-own-adventure stories as a link to Digital Matters and Once Upon Online.
	check that the book makes sense to them, discuss their understanding:	Through teacher- and student-led discussions of their story journey, students are able to understand how their choices impact the story's outcome and why.
	ask questions to improve their understanding:	Teachers should encourage students to ask questions to their peers and the teacher to develop their understanding of the characters and story choices.
	draw inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justify inferences with evidence:	As students move through the Once Upon Online section of the app, they need to infer characters' feelings and reactions based on the text. As the teacher circulates and asks them about their choices, they should verbalise what choices they made and what inferences they made to get to their end point.
	predict what might happen from details stated and implied:	Before children make their choices, they need to predict what the outcomes may be using their knowledge of protecting personal information.
	provide reasoned justifications for their views	When children make their choices, they should be encouraged to share with their peers, teacher and parents why they made their decisions and what outcome they were hoping for versus what outcome they achieved.

Source: [National curriculum in England: English programmes of study](#)

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ICT  Source: <a href="#">National curriculum in England: Computing programmes of study</a>	be discerning in evaluating digital content:	Throughout both sections of the lesson, students are given opportunities to make judgements on online content that is shared. During Once Upon Online, they must help the characters make positive decisions in evaluating information.
	use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly; recognise acceptable/unacceptable behaviour; identify a range of ways to report concerns about content and contact:	Through the Once Upon Online section and using their knowledge of online information, children will make choices to demonstrate their understanding of how to conduct themselves respectfully online.
PSHE Health and Wellbeing	<b>Keeping Safe</b> how to predict, assess and manage risk in different situations	As students move through Once Upon Online, they will need to make choices based on their knowledge of misinformation online, aiming to choose the options that minimise risk of spreading such information.
Relationships	<b>Friendships</b> understand strategies for recognising and managing peer influence and a desire for peer approval in friendships; to recognise the effect of online actions on others	Through Once Upon Online, Adil must navigate information shared with him by his cousin and with friends. Users may find themselves confronting HarleeGamez or believing HarleeTruth, and must make positive choices to avoid negatively impacting the latter.
	<b>Managing Hurtful Behaviour and Bullying</b> know about the impact of bullying, including offline and online, and the consequences of hurtful behaviour	In the Once Upon Online section, users must make positive decisions to avoid causing HarleeGamez hurt based on misinformation.
	<b>Respecting Self and Others</b> understand that personal behaviour can affect other people; to recognise and model respectful behaviour online	During the Once Upon Online section, students may find themselves in a scenario where Adil must decide to either confront the target of misinformation or be respectful about their space and explanation.
	recognise that everyone, including them, should expect to be treated politely and with respect by others (including when online and/or anonymous)	In the Once Upon Online story, students need to make respectful decisions for the story's characters.
	how to discuss and debate topical issues, respect other people's point of view and constructively challenge those they disagree with	In the Once Upon Online story, users have to help Adil navigate the sharing of misinformation among family and friends, making safe and respectful choices to help them.

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Living in the Wider World	<b>Shared Responsibilities</b> the importance of having compassion towards others; shared responsibilities we all have for caring for other people and living things; how to show care and concern for others	As users go through the Once Upon Online journey, they are tasked with making respectful and productive choices to help characters interact positively with each other.
	<b>Media Literacy &amp; Digital Resilience</b> recognise ways in which the internet and social media can be used both positively and negatively	Throughout the lesson, students learn about the ways information can be shared and misused, and how they can verify information for a positive online experience
	how to assess the reliability of sources of information online; and how to make safe, reliable choices from search results	Children learn about different types of information, what reliable sources look like, and how to navigate new information productively.
	recognise things appropriate to share and things that should not be shared on social media	Students are taught how to assess information and decide whether they should share it or whether it needs verifying
	about how text and images in the media and on social media can be manipulated or invented; strategies to evaluate the reliability of sources and identify misinformation	During the Once Upon Online story, users might find the character of HarleeTruth who shares and manipulates images of other characters. They must help Adil navigate these types of misinformation to find the truth.
Source: <a href="#">PSHE Association: Programme of Study for PSHE Education</a>		
Relationships Education	<b>Respectful relationships</b> understand the importance of respecting others, even when they are very different	Children are asked to make decisions while considering the impact on others.
	know the practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships	Through the Interactive Learning and Once Upon Online sections, children are taught different routes to take for positive outcomes in managing online information in different contexts.
	understand the conventions of courtesy and manners	In Once Upon Online, students will receive instant reactions based on their choices. Choosing courteous and kind options will have more positive outcomes.
	<b>Online relationships</b> understand the rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them	During the Interactive Learning and Once Upon Online sections, students will interact with different scenarios that will teach them how to rely on different resources for help, including utilising a trusted adult.
	understand that people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not	In Once Upon Online, the characters meet HarleeTruth who claims to be close to HarleeGamez and knows the truth about them. Users must navigate this to find out what is accurate and real.

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	that the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to-face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online including when we are anonymous	Students will encounter choices where they can be rude or kind in the story, and they will have to make the appropriate choice based on respect.
	know how to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met	Students are provided with scenarios of encounters with strangers online. They need to make choices based on the reliability of the information.
	<b>Being safe</b> know where to get advice e.g. family, school and/or other sources	A variety of methods are covered including trusted adults (parents, carers, teachers, older siblings, relatives) and web resources.
Health Education	<b>Internet safety and harms</b> understand how to consider the effect of their online actions on others and know how to recognise and display respectful behaviour online and the importance of keeping personal information private.	As students make their way through the online story, they need to help Adil make respectful choices as some possible actions will affect others in the story.
	recognise that the internet can also be a negative place where online abuse, trolling, bullying and harassment can take place, which can have a negative impact on mental health.	In some paths of the Once Upon Online story, students may find that Adil or other characters are taking things too far. Students have to decide what choices are best to make for positive outcomes.
Source: <a href="#">DfE statutory guidance: Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education</a>	understand how to be a discerning consumer of information online including understanding that information, including that from search engines, is ranked, selected and targeted.	Through both sections, students learn about evaluating information as reliable and how they can do this. They apply this learning through various activities, taking action to ensure what the characters are doing helps get to the truth.