

Safer Internet Day 2021: helping young people to separate fact from fiction online

For immediate release

Tomorrow is UK Safer Internet Day and this year's theme is reliability online. Helping children to develop critical thinking skills has long been central to the work we do at [Parent Zone](#) to support families in a digital world. We have been working on this with the Home Office, internationally, and by bringing together a range of other organisations that care about truth online.

“It has never been more important for us to think about how we can help children to develop good critical thinking skills — but it's equally important that we think about what platforms can do to promote reliable information. With a new regulator in the pipeline thanks to the Online Harms White Paper this could be a pivotal moment for the future of content online. What we need to do now is to focus on getting that right,” said Parent Zone CEO and founder Vicki Shotbolt.

Our [Be Internet Legends](#) programme with Google UK teaches primary school children how to spot the signs of phishing and other online scams. [Resilient Families](#), our programme with the Home Office, provides online training and education that addresses online risks and misinformation. And [Digiworld](#), created in partnership with the Telenor Group, is an international curriculum available in a number of languages, addressing misinformation online.

Our sister organisation, Youth Zone, launched [VoiceBox](#), an international content platform led by young people for young people. “We can see the internet changing and we want to provide the roadmap. Straightforward user-generated content has led to fake news, hate speech and content bubbles,” said Max, one of YZ's USA-based International Leads. “We want to offer a



better model. A space for young voices to be heard, with the responsible approach of more traditional media,” said Natalie, another USA-based International Lead.

Listen to Parent Zone CEO and founder Vicki Shotbolt and Parent Zone’s Executive Editor Geraldine Bedell discuss misinformation online in Parent Zone’s podcast, [Tech Shock](#). In episode 9 they talk to Joe Mulhall from ‘Hope not Hate’ about the threat of the far-right and misinformation online. In episode 10 they discuss online anti-vaccination campaigns with Professor Helen Bedford from UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health.

If you want to find out more about the work we do at Parent Zone or would like a comment from us for Safer Internet Day, please contact press@parentzone.org.uk

About Parent Zone

Parent Zone sits at the heart of modern family life, providing advice, knowledge and support to shape the best possible future for children as they embrace the online world.