



Safer Schools Lesson Plan – Fake News – Primary



Crib notes

Aim of the lesson:

Fake News is an issue which has been all over the news and social media in recent years. It is an important topic for pupils to understand as they navigate the online world. This lesson aims to give them the skills and knowledge to challenge Fake News, whether they see it online, in the newspaper or on TV.

Teacher's Notes:

Here's the bit where we give you some key information so you can seem even smarter in the eyes of your pupils.

How to spot Fake News:

- Check the publisher- who or where did the story come from, what other stories do they have and what do you know about the news outlet?
- Check the sources- who does the news story quote? If they mention experts or other news outlets, you can google them to see if they check out.
- Research it yourself- read past the headline, think about what the story is telling you and pay attention to dramatic language.
- Check the date- when was the article published? It might be old or reposted.
- Pay attention to images- they may not be recent and may have been reused.
- Use a fact checker- there're lots of websites that check facts, and stories reported in the press. Have a look at www.fullfact.org to fact check.



Lesson plan

Resources:

Fake News PPT, Fake News Handout, tablets or laptops*.

Learning objectives:

- Learn to identify if news is real, fake or satire.
- Understand how to spot Fake News.
- Develop our knowledge of how to challenge Fake News.



Teaching:

Slide 1 and 2: Title page and Learning Objectives.

Slide 3: REAL acrostic for spotting Fake News.

Research – check the publisher. *Who or where did the story come from, what other stories do they have and what do you know about the news outlet?*

Evidence – check the sources. *Who does the news story quote? Do they mention experts or other news outlets?*

Analyse – check the date. *When was the article published? It might be old or reposted.*

Learn – google the quotes. *Have they been used by any other news sources? Is it a real quote?*

Slide 4: FAKE acrostic for spotting Fake News.

Facts – use a fact checker. *There're lots of websites that check facts, and stories reported in the press. Have a look at www.fullfact.org to fact check.*

Attention – pay close attention to images. *They may not be recent and may have been reused, or they may be fake.*

Knowledge – look at what the experts are saying. *Research whether this story is opinion or fact.*

Examine – look at the language used – is it dramatic or hyperbolic? *(Hyperbolic – exaggerated / over the top on purpose)*

Slide 5: How you can challenge Fake News:

Speech bubbles appear one at a time with the following questions:

- *Ask- who wrote this? Why did they write it?*
- *Is the story from a credible newspaper, website or platform?*
- *Is it for or against something?*
- *Is it simply telling me something or trying to shock or worry me?*
- *Are other platforms, news companies or websites reporting on it?*
- *Do the sources check out?*
- *Does the URL or link look legit? (does it look like a real website? A URL stands for Uniform Resource Locator – It is simply the address of the webpage – such as <https://oursaferschools.co.uk/>)*

Slide 6: What is Satire?

Satire is different from Fake News; it uses sarcastic comedy on purpose to entertain people. It can trick young people, who might repost it as a truthful source if they aren't familiar with it (there will be an example of satire on Slide 14).

- *Satire often mocks, jokes or parodies current events.*
- *If something is sarcastic, odd, funny and dramatic at the same time, it might be satire.*
- *Satire will sometimes use words with double meanings, lots of puns, or silly quotes.*



- *Satire is different from fake news; it uses sarcastic comedy on purpose to entertain people.*



Slide 7: Fake News Game (Remember that you can print out a copy of these articles from the lesson pack)

Slides 8, 11 & 14 contain news articles. Pupils must identify if the article is real, fake or satire. If you click on the incorrect button, use the redirect button to take you the article again.

*If possible, provide pupils with iPads/tablets to research and fact check.

Slide 8: Just News – Fake (Read the article with the pupils)

Key questions to prompt pupils:

- Site name (Just News) and by-line (celeb news and gossip) – do we trust this source?
- Does the story sound believable?
- Does the photograph look real?
- Final paragraph – Does this sound real? Is it dramatic/hyperbolic?

Select a pupil to come forward and select FAKE, REAL or SATIRE.

Slide 11: Daily Herald – Real (Read the article with the pupils)

Key questions to prompt pupils:

- Does this sound like a trusted news source? (open to debate)
- Refers to a BBC interview – so this can be checked.
- We can google search the image – is it used in other publications?
- Can we fact check this record? (fullfact.org)

Select a pupil to come forward and select FAKE, REAL or SATIRE.

Slide 14: Footy Funnies – Satire (Read the article with the pupils)

This could easily be described as fake also, but the “Footy Funnies” name, plus the April Fools date and the hyperbolic language make it Satire.

Key questions to prompt pupils:

- Picture – Messi wearing a Roma jersey – doesn’t play for them.
- Date – April Fools
- Would he holiday in Blackpool?
- Explain what parody is (a form of satire where a fake story is used as a joke)
- Site name – Footy Funnies – Is this a serious source?

Select a pupil to come forward and select FAKE, REAL or SATIRE.



Extended Activities:

Slide 17:

- Pupils will create posters with instructions on how to spot Fake News for other pupils in their school.