

What is Personal Information?

40 minutes

Cyber Safety

WHAT THIS LESSON DOES

In this lesson, you'll learn what personal information is, see examples, and understand why it's crucial to keep it private. Follow steps to explore how to protect your information online and review your own internet habits for safety.

WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO

- Understand the definition of personal information and why it is important.
- Identify examples of personal information.
- Understand the risks associated with sharing personal information online.
- Learn strategies for protecting personal information on the internet.
- Reflect on personal online habits and identify areas for improvement in protecting personal information.
- Develop an attitude of caution and responsibility when it comes to sharing personal information online.

BEFORE THE LESSON

- Open and test the Online Safety Challenge interactive in step 6 on your own device first, and check it loads through the school filter.
- Have a large screen or projector ready so the class can work through the definition and examples together in steps 1 to 3.
- Decide whether pupils will use devices for the step 6 challenge individually or in pairs, and check they are charged and logged in.

What is Personal Information?

HOW THE LESSON RUNS

Understanding Personal Information

Examples of Personal Information

Why Personal Information is Important

Personal Information and the Internet

How to Protect Your Personal Information

Online Safety Challenge

Review Your Online Habits

TEACHING MOVES

- 1. Understanding Personal Information. Ask the class to name one thing that is only true about them before you reveal the definition. Draw out that personal information identifies one person uniquely.
- 2. Examples of Personal Information. Read each example and ask pupils to say aloud why that detail could identify them. Keep it a quick group volley rather than a written list.
- 3. Why Personal Information is Important. Contrast a legitimate use, enrolling in school, with a risky one, giving it to a stranger. Let pupils sort a couple of examples into safe or not.
- 4. Personal Information and the Internet. Stress that online a person can pretend to be anyone. Ask pupils how they would check whether someone online is really who they claim to be.
- 5. How to Protect Your Personal Information. Turn each tip into a rule the class agrees on together, so protection feels like a shared habit rather than a warning list.
- 6. Online Safety Challenge. Let pupils work the interactive and circulate. When someone chooses wrongly, pause and ask what detail gave the risk away before revealing the answer.
- 7. Review Your Online Habits. Keep this reflection spoken and private. Ask the questions aloud and give thinking time; do not ask pupils to name their accounts or share answers publicly.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

- Pupils think personal information means only a full name, and miss that an address, phone number or school also identifies them. Show how details combine: a first name alone is common, but a first name plus a school plus a town points to one child.
- Pupils believe someone friendly online must be trustworthy and safe to share details with. Remind them that online anyone can pretend to be someone else, so being friendly is not proof of who a person really is.

DIFFERENTIATION

- Emerging: Give a short fixed list of three details, name, address, phone number, and ask only whether each is personal or not before moving on.
- Developing: Pair them with a partner for the step 6 challenge and ask each pupil to say why their choice is safe or risky.
- Proficient: Ask them to write one extra protection rule the lesson did not mention and justify it, or to spot which combinations of details are most identifying.