

SAFEGUARDING

STAYING SMART ONLINE: TACKLING MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION TOGETHER DEAR CARLTON ACADEMY COMMUNITY,

Dear Carlton Academy Community,

As we settle into the new academic year, we're taking a moment to focus on something that affects us all—how we understand and share information online. In a world full of social media, news apps, and digital conversations, it's easy to come across content that isn't quite true. That's why this month, we're exploring how misinformation and disinformation can impact our learning, relationships, and wellbeing—and what we can do about it.

Staying Smart Online: Tackling Misinformation and Disinformation Together

Misinformation

False information shared by someone who believes it's true.

Disinformation

False information shared on purpose to mislead or cause harm.

Malinformation

Real information used in a harmful way, like sharing private details or twisting facts.

Why It Matters at Carlton Academy

We're proud of our diverse and respectful learning environment. But misinformation can:

- Damage trust between students, staff, and families
- Create confusion and stress
- Silence voices and discourage participation
- Disrupt teamwork and learning
- Promote unfair stereotypes

How to Stay Safe Online Before sharing something, ask yourself:

- Is this from a trusted source?
- Can I find the same info elsewhere?
- Is it current and in context?
- Why might someone be sharing this?

Watch out for:

- Deepfakes (fake videos/images)
- Emotional posts designed to provoke
- Bots or fake accounts sharing identical messages

Supporting Each Other

At Carlton Academy, we believe in kindness and curiosity. You can help by:

- Gently correcting misinformation
- Sharing reliable sources
- Helping others build digital confidence
- Celebrating when someone learns something new

Let's Build a Respectful Digital Community

We all play a part in making Carlton Academy a safe and inclusive space—online and offline. By asking questions, thinking critically, and supporting one another, we can make sure everyone feels heard, respected, and empowered to grow.

Thank you for being part of our learning journey.

— The Carlton Academy Faculty of Business and Computer Science

