



## Gooseberry Alert 28

### Personal Information – Who has yours and what are they doing with it?

Please share your Gooseberry Alert content with students, staff and parents.



All that we ask in return and in the spirit of modelling positive digital citizenship: when sharing our content, please acknowledge 'Gooseberry Planet Limited' as the source of your advice. Thank you.

#### Gooseberry Student 'Discussions' of the week

We know that keeping our personal information private when connecting online can help keep us safer.

Did you know...when you sign up for any online account or service you automatically agree to allow your personal information to be used and shared in different ways?

Is our personal information being used safely by the very people we are trusting to keep it secure?

Discuss the following questions:

- What kinds of personal information are you asked for when signing up for online accounts and services? What do you think it is used for?
- How do you know who your personal information is shared with? Where can you find out?
- Do you agree that companies should be allowed to share your personal information with others? Can sharing certain pieces of personal information be useful?
- What ideas do you have, that could help people decide about sharing their personal information online? Or manage how it is shared?

**Key Messages: Personal Information is one of the most valuable things we hold about ourselves and yet we give it away freely. Knowing what personal information is used and how, can help you to make better decisions when sharing yours online. If an online service requires or asks you to share information that you are not comfortable with, consider if signing up is the best decision.**

Please share with students.

#### Gooseberry Teacher 'Thoughts' of the week

They say that 'Knowledge is power' and regarding the online world, others knowing our personal information is perhaps more powerful and has more value than we realise. In fact, to a business or online developer our personal information, which we share freely online, is priceless.

**But the big question is: If you really understood how your personal information was being used and who it was being shared with, would you still choose to share it?**

Companies provide information that, if read and understood, explains how your personal information is used and who it is shared with. More detail about the type of information collected, the purpose for collecting it and who it will be shared with will have to be provided to you by a new law coming into effect in May.

**But are we being told the whole story?**

Is our personal information also now being used to target us, for political purposes too?

Always find out how your personal information is used.





**Key Messages:** Knowledge is indeed very powerful when it comes to understanding how your personal information is used online. It can influence how you choose to control, manage and share your personal information online. Consider how your personal information will be used, when deciding whether to sign up to online products, services or accounts.

The safest way to protect your personal information is to avoid sharing it in the first place and keep it private. It is important to take the time to read and choose carefully what you agree to. Take particular care about requests for consent to your personal information being shared with third parties for marketing purposes if you wish to avoid junk mail, SPAM, cold calling, or targeted advertising.

Please share with staff.

## Gooseberry Parent 'Actions' of the week

As parents and carers, you have an important role to play in protecting your child's personal information online as well as your own.

Most online services and accounts require you to share personal information when you sign up.



As parents and carers, **you must manage what your child is 'signing up' for online** and should **know how their personal information is being shared** by the people who it is revealed to. Take the time to **find out how personal information is used and if it is appropriate for your child to be 'signing up'**. Make use of privacy updates and 'Privacy Settings' and use these to secure online accounts.

**Consider deleting accounts** that have misled you about how they handle personal information and how they allow it to be used.

**Personal information is precious and should be shared with care and used by others responsibly.**

In the news... In the news... In the news... In the news... In the news...

## Could what you do online stop you exploring the real world?

Imagine if you were prevented from visiting a certain country for a holiday or for business because of your presence online, especially on social media.



This is an idea currently being proposed by the US State Department, as part of the vetting process for some future visa applications.

Visas themselves are not a new idea and are used globally to monitor who is arriving and leaving a country. They also permit a person to remain in a country for a specific period for work and leisure.

Some may view the idea of **using checks of online activity** to help decide if a visa is issued as helpful, whereas for others it is **another way to gather more information and intelligence about people and a threat to free speech.**

Prospective visitors would be required to **declare their online identities and social media accounts from the past five years** alongside other pieces of personal information.

Countries whose citizens currently have 'visa-free travel status', including amongst others UK citizens, are not part of the current proposals but imagine if they were. **Perhaps ideas like this may make us all think more carefully about how we present ourselves online and about what we are sharing.**

Want to know more? Visit us at [www.gooseberryplanet.com](http://www.gooseberryplanet.com)

Contact us at: [www.gooseberryplanet.com](http://www.gooseberryplanet.com)

Email us: [help@gooseberryplanet.com](mailto:help@gooseberryplanet.com)