

Learning objectives

- Understand what app permissions are and why they matter.
- Analyse whether an app's request for data is reasonable.
- Make informed decisions about protecting personal privacy online.

Starter

When we download a new game or app, it often asks for permission to use parts of our device, like the camera. But does a simple puzzle game really need to know where we live? Today we are going to be data detectives to spot the greedy apps.

Main activity

Audit these three fictional apps:

App 1: "Biscuit's Run" (A simple running game starring Biscuit the dog). Permissions requested: Device storage (only to save your high scores).

App 2: "Maya's Star Map" (An app to find constellations in the night sky). Permissions requested: Camera (to view the stars through the screen) and Location (to know which stars are visible above you).

App 3: "Dev's Quick Calculator" (A basic maths calculator app). Permissions requested: Microphone, Contacts list, Camera, and Precise Location.

Pupil questions:

1. Which of the three apps is asking for greedy permissions that it does not need to do its job?
2. Why does the star map app actually need your location and camera to work?
3. What risks might there be if Dev allows a simple calculator to access his contacts list and microphone?
4. What should you do if an app asks for more permissions than you feel comfortable with?

Plenary

Just because an app asks for your information does not mean you have to say yes. Protecting your personal data is an important part of staying safe and in control online.

Curriculum links

Education for a Connected World (Privacy and Security) / Computing KS2

For the teacher — this also covers:

Reasoning and justification (oracy); comparing and sorting information (data handling); PSHE (personal boundaries and consent over your own information).