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# Your Rights and Responsibilities Using Digital Content

KS4 COMPUTER SCIENCE

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## What Are Digital Rights?

**Digital rights** are the freedoms and protections you have when using the internet and online content. Just like you have rights in the real world—like the right to privacy and freedom of speech—you have similar rights online. You have the right to keep your personal information private, the right to use services without unfair treatment, and the right to know what happens to your data.

Think of it like a library: you can borrow books, but you can't write in them or sell them. Online, you can use content in certain ways, but there are rules about what you can and cannot do with it.

## Copyright and Ownership

When someone creates content—like a song, photo, video, or article—they own it automatically. This is called **copyright**. You cannot copy, download, or share someone else's work without permission, even if it's just to show your friends. Sharing copyrighted material illegally can get you or your family in serious trouble and you could face fines.

Many creators share their work under **Creative Commons licenses**, which means you can use it for free, as long as you follow their rules—usually by giving them credit. Always check the terms before using someone else's work.

## Your Responsibilities Online

With digital rights come **digital responsibilities**. When you post, comment, or share online, you must be respectful and honest. Don't bully, spread false information, or share private details about other people. Remember: anything you post can be saved, shared, and seen by many people forever.

Think of it like writing your name in permanent marker on a wall—once it's there, you can't really erase it, even if you change your mind later.

## Data Privacy and Safety

Companies collect your personal data—like your name, age, location, and what you like—to improve their services and sell ads. You have the right to know what data they collect and how they use it. Never share passwords, your home address, or other sensitive information online. Be careful what you click on, as some websites or links contain **malware** that can harm your device or steal your information.

## The Bottom Line

Being a good digital citizen means respecting others' work, protecting your own privacy, and being honest and kind online. Always ask yourself: Is this content mine to use? Am I being respectful? Am I keeping my information safe? Following these principles will help you enjoy the internet responsibly.