What is personal information?

Learning objective
Children will understand what is meant by ‘personal information’.

Resources
Sources of information about famous people such as magazines, books and access to the internet; interactive whiteboard; A4 paper, pens and pencils; flip chart; Pupil sheet 1: Personal information profile; PowerPoint 1: Personal information.

Introduction
Tell the class that today they will be considering personal information. Ask what they think personal information is. Write down their ideas. Show the class the definition of ‘personal information’ (PowerPoint 1). Personal information is information about you. This includes your name, address or telephone number.

Activity
Divide into small groups. Invite the children to choose a famous person such as an actor, pop star or sports personality. Challenge the children to write down as much personal information about their chosen person as they can. Can they find all the information shown on the second PowerPoint slide?

Plenary
Discuss the types of information known. If they were the person, would they mind that the information was known? How might the information have become available? When might it be a problem for someone to know a famous person’s address? Which pieces of information do the children feel should be kept safe? Why?

Extension
Over the coming week encourage the children to look out for news reports about famous people who feel their personal information has been taken and that their privacy has been invaded. What advice would the children give to these people?
1 Personal information profile for

Name

Address

Job/School

Appearance

Age

Birthday

Favourite food

Leisure activities

Other personal information