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Online Safety Newsletter
November 2023

Online Safety Bill Update

The Online Safety Bill is a new set of laws designed to protect children and adults online. In September 2023 the Online Safety Bill passed its final Parliamentary debate and is now ready to become law.

The bill has a zero-tolerance approach to protecting children, meaning social media platforms will be legally responsible for the content they host and keeping children and young people safe online.

Social media platforms will be expected to:

- remove illegal content quickly or prevent it from appearing in the first place, including content promoting self-harm
- prevent children from accessing harmful and age-inappropriate content
- enforce age limits and age-checking measures
- ensure the risks and dangers posed to children on the largest social media platforms are more transparent, including by publishing risk assessments
- provide parents and children with clear and accessible ways to report problems online when they do arise

If social media platforms do not comply with these rules, Ofcom could fine them up to £18 million or 10% of their global annual revenue, whichever is biggest – meaning fines handed down to the biggest platforms could reach billions of pounds.

For more information about the online safety bill visit the Britain makes internet safer, as Online Safety Bill finished and ready to become law - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Avoid and Report Internet Scams and Phishing

Report misleading websites, emails, phone numbers, phone calls or text messages you think may be suspicious.

Do not give out private information (such as bank details or passwords), reply to text messages, download attachments or click on any links in emails if you're not sure they're genuine.

If you think you've been a victim of an online scam or fraud: Contact Action Fraud if you think you've lost money or been hacked because of an online scam or fraud and you're in England or Wales. You can: report online or call 0300 123 2040

ActionFraud
National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre
0300 123 2040

For more information:

For more information about online safety you can visit our individual school websites for online safety news, useful resources and web

Social Media Influencers

What is an Influencer? An influencer is somebody prominent on a social media platform such as YouTube and Instagram, who has a high number of followers. Influencers share their opinions/ideas and may be paid to advertise/promote products through their account. Whilst there are some great influencers, there are some that choose to share their own opinions, which could be misogynistic or racist for example. These opinions can be expressed or interpreted as fact. It is important to talk to your child about the spread of misinformation online and how we should fact check and critically analyse what we see and hear online. What we see on social media platforms is influenced by algorithms, which predict what type of content we are most likely to interact with. Whilst there are benefits of algorithms, it can mean that once we start looking at certain content, our social media feed can become more aligned with that opinion, so we don't see a balanced picture.

You can find out more here: https://www.childnet.com/blog/algorithms/

Parental Workshops

Would you like to learn how to better support your child and help them stay safe online? Would you like to take part in parental workshops and complete National Online Safety training modules? If so, please register your interest using the form below and we will be in touch soon.

https://forms.office.com/e/tN01Sfz326

What is Artificial Intelligence?

AI is when a computer/machine can learn and perform tasks like a human. Its popularity is increasing due to the likes of ChatGPT and more recently, My AI from Snapchat.

Internet Matters have created a guide about using AI with your child and lists some popular AI tools that you should be aware of:

https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/parent-guide-to-artificial-intelligence-ai-tools/

In addition, Childnet have produced this blog about Snapchat's My AI: https://www.childnet.com/blog/snapchats-new-ai-chatbot-and-its-impact-on-young-people/

Mental Health and Wellness

Common Sense Media have curated a list of podcasts that are suitable for teenagers. The podcasts listed include a description and reviews. You can find the article here:

Best Mental Health and Wellness Podcasts for Kids, Tweens, and Teens | Common Sense Media

Report Remove

Report Remove is a tool provided by Childline and the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) to help those under the age of 18 to confidentially report if sexual images or videos of themselves have been shared online. Once a report has been made, the IWF will work to remove them from the internet. Find out more here:

https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove/