



Weston Federation Safeguarding Newsletter

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Weston Federation of Schools
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*Hello and welcome to our monthly safeguarding newsletter / update.
If there is any aspect of safeguarding and staying safe you would like us to share please let one of the team know.*

Key Reminders:

The weather is changing, and it is getting colder and damper. Please make sure your child has the appropriate clothing for the weather to enable them to play outside safely.

Online Safety

In these ongoing unprecedented times we are seeing our children and young people spending more and more time online. The raft of apps and games that they have available is vast and ever changing. Here we provide a summary of some of the most popular ones – detailing the risks and guidance associated with them as well as general guidance about social networking. Please look at the following link for more detail about ALL apps and games –

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides>

Other useful internet safety advice sites are

www.net-aware.org.uk

www.internetmatters.org

www.thinkyouknow.co.uk

What age can my child start social networking?

As a parent/carer it's important you know that all social networking platforms (apps) have age limits. Some social networks use technologies that mightn't be right for some ages, or engage with communities that are made up of people much older than your child.

What are the risks of an underage social networking account?

☑ Many sites include an instant message function which allows private conversations

☑ Most social networking sites have an app version, meaning your child will have access to the social network from their smartphone/tablet. Some app versions of social networks use the location of the phone.

☑ Information shared between friends can be easily copied and may spread

☑ It isn't easy to take back information that has been posted – and can be impossible if it's already been shared.

☑ Not everyone your child meets online will be who they say they are. Chatrooms and forums can connect people who are complete strangers and can be unmoderated

☑ Chatrooms and forums are one of the places online groomers go to connect with children. They can also be places where people use a lot of sexual language and engage in online flirting. This is sometimes done through video chat programs.

My child wants to share on social media. Should I be worried?

YouTube (along with other social media platforms) should NOT be used by those under the age of 14 due to the associated risks of comments on the videos they post and feedback from viewers which may not always be positive or appropriate.

As with all social media platforms, remind children that what they post online might stay around for a long time and be hard to remove and to bear in mind that embarrassing or controversial content might cause unnecessary stress or impact on education or job opportunities later in life.





Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

What is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps?

Under 13	13+	16+	17+
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roblox PopJam FaceTime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twitter Facebook and Messenger Viber WeChat Monkey Yubo Dubsmash Instagram 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TikTok Skype Google Hangouts Reddit Snapchat Pinterest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WhatsApp Telegram Messenger Tumblr
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Line Sarahah Tellonym

Sourced from NSPCC website October 2019



Minecraft is a game that lets you build and create a virtual world. This game has chat and server options that can pose a potential risk.



Snapchat is a social network app that lets you send photos, short videos or messages to friends. Again this app allows you to add and share and chat with people. There is an instant feature that means what you send disappears when viewed.



Roblox lets you create your own games or play games that others have made. This game has chat and server options that can pose a potential risk.



Facebook is a social network app which lets you connect with others and share things like comments, photos and videos on your profile. This app allows you to add and share and chat with people.



Instagram is social network platform that is a popular picture and video sharing app. This app has the function to add people and to chat privately.



Grand theft auto is a game where you explore fictional cities and commit crimes, including violence. This game allows chatting and interacting. It has highly adult content.



TikTok is a social media platform that lets you create, share and discover videos. This platform allows you to add people and to chat. There are many concerns about the risk to children using this app.



WhatsApp is a social communication app which lets you send messages, images and videos. There is an instant feature that means what you send disappears when viewed.



Have you heard of Huggy Wuggy?

Unfortunately, we've heard a small number of children talking about Huggy Wuggy recently.

Despite the cute name, Huggy Wuggy is in fact a sinister character who can be found online, for instance in youtube videos and on TikTok.



Huggy Wuggy is a blue bear with sharp teeth who enjoys singing songs about hugging and killing. The character appears to be from the cast of Poppy Playtime which is described as a 'survival horror, logical puzzle video game'.

Huggy Wuggy is the villain within the game. We wanted to make you aware of this as soon as possible and would encourage you to check your parental filters on your devices and at home.

Please be aware that the media are reporting the character's cute name as being able to infiltrate firewalls and filters.

The last thing we want to see is this game being recreated in the playground. Whilst Poppy Playtime doesn't currently have an age rating, it isn't deemed suitable for primary aged children.

Please be vigilant in what your children are viewing and doing online. Thank you for your help in keeping the children safe.

If you are concerned, please come and speak to someone in school.

Coming soon Staying Safe Online Workshops

Nicki Windle and Marie Davey will be running some workshops for parents / carers in how to help keep your child safe online. The range of apps, games and online platforms young people have access to is growing day by day and it can be hard to keep up with what is safe or not.

The details for these events will be shared soon.

BE SMART ONLINE

- S SAFE** Keep your personal information safe. When chatting or posting online don't give away things like your full name, password or home address. Remember personal information can be seen in images and videos you share too. Keep them safe to keep yourself safe.
- M MEET** Meeting up with someone you only know online, even a friend of a friend, can be dangerous as this person is still a stranger. If someone you only know online ever asks you to meet up, for personal information - or for photos/videos of you then tell an adult straight away and report them together on www.thinkuknow.co.uk
- A ACCEPTING** Think carefully before you click on or open something online (e.g. links, adverts, friend requests, photos) as you never know where they may lead to or they may contain viruses. Do not accept something if you are unsure of who the person is or what they've sent you.
- R RELIABLE** You cannot trust everything you see online as some things can be out of date, inaccurate or not entirely true. To find reliable information compare at least three different websites, check in books and talk to someone about what you have found.
- T TELL** Tell a trusted adult if something or someone ever makes you feel upset, worried or confused. This could be if you or someone you know is being bullied online. There are lots of people who will be able to help you like your teachers, parents, carers or contact Childline - 0800 11 11 or www.childline.org.uk
- BE SMART WITH A HEART** Remember to always be smart with a heart by being kind and respectful to others online. Make the internet a better place by helping your friends if they are worried or upset by anything that happens online.

WWW.CHILDNET.COM