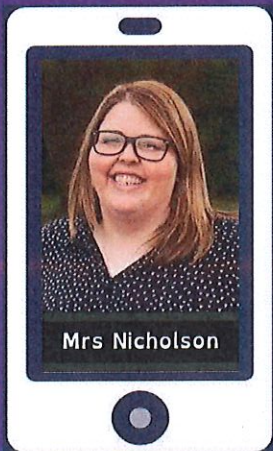




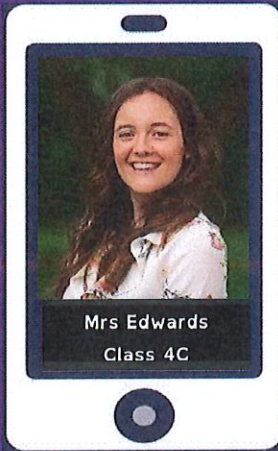
Ravenscote Junior School

Digital Parenting Newsletter

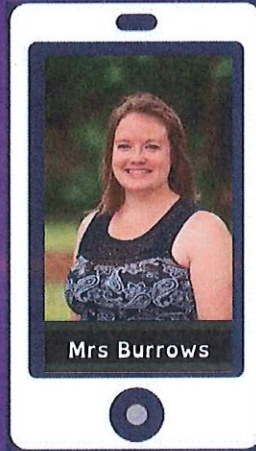
Autumn



Mrs Nicholson



Mrs Edwards
Class 4C



Mrs Burrows

MEET OUR DESIGNATED ONLINE SAFETY OFFICERS

What's Inside?

- AI in social media
- What to do when...
- Age ratings
- Live Streaming

Understanding AI in Social Media

AI is becoming a permanent feature in social media apps used by children and young people, with AI chatbots featuring in Snapchat, WhatsApp, Instagram, and Facebook. This means that many children may now interact with AI daily, often without parental consent or oversight. AI features like Meta AI could expose them to misleading content or privacy risks.

What Parents Can Do

- Discuss why social media and AI tools have age limits ([Safer Internet Guide](#))
- Talk about how AI generates responses and why it may not always be reliable
- Teach children to question digital content (e.g., "Who created this? Is it true?")
- Use AI safety settings and parental controls ([Internet Matters AI Guide](#))

Evaluating Online Information

- How do you know if something you see online is genuine?
- What things would you look for to check if something is reliable?
- How would you know if a piece of evidence is trustworthy?
- What is the difference between facts, opinions, and beliefs?

Questions to discuss at home

Misinformation & Disinformation

- What is misinformation?
- What is disinformation? (false information intended to be harmful)
- Why do people create false or misleading information online?
- Why do people share misinformation and disinformation?
- Who creates the information we see online?
- Can we think of any examples of inaccurate or untrue information being shared online?
- How can we help prevent the spread of false information?

AI & Bots

- What is a 'bot'?
- What are bots used for?
- Can bots be helpful?
- How do you know if you're talking to a bot?
- Does it matter if you know?



What to do when...



Education from
the National
Crime Agency

...your child wants to join social media

Use our article for what to consider:

<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/is-my-child-ready-for-social-media/>

Know more about how each social media platform works with Internet Matters guides:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/by-activity/social-media-advice-hub/social->

...you're worried about who your child is talking to whilst gaming

Read our article to learn more about safer in-game chat:

www.ceopeducation

...you want to protect your child from online blackmail

Read our guidance for parents and carers on financially motivated sexual extortion:

www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/FMSE/

...your child is asking for their first phone

Use UKSIC's advice page for things to consider:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers/phones>

...you're worried your child might share a nude image, or already has

Watch our short films for advice:

www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/nude-selfies-a-parents-guide/

Remember, under 18s can report nude images shared online to **Report Remove** for help to take it down:

www.childline.org.uk/remove

...you're worried your child might see something inappropriate online

Read our article for advice and guidance:

<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/Im-worried-my-primary-aged-child-might-see-something-inappropriate-online/>

CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) are part of the National Crime Agency focused on safeguarding children from online threats and exploitation.

For further advice and guidance from them, follow the links below –

[Parents and carers | CEOP Education](#)

[Home Safety Activities](#)

What are age ratings and can you trust them?

Age ratings are designed to help users find suitable and appropriate online content and platforms. They can also be hard to understand, especially when they are not always consistent.

What are the common age ratings?

In the UK and much of Europe, most games are rated by PEGI (Pan-European Game Information). You'll see badges like PEGI 3, 7, 12, 16, 18 with small content icons (e.g., violence, fear, bad language, gambling, in-game purchases). PEGI shows the suitability of content—not how difficult a game is.



On mobile app stores, the labels differ:

- Apple uses its own 4+, 9+, 12+, 17+ system;
- Google Play shows regional ratings via the International Age Rating Coalition (IARC) system (so in the UK you'll usually see PEGI).

How are they useful for parents?

Age ratings do act as a useful guide – especially when it comes to explaining boundaries or supporting conversations with a child about what may or may not be suitable. But parents should always try to find out more about an online platform – including its content, functionalities or other social aspects – to make a more informed decision.

For more information about age ratings, please explore the following links below –

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/age-ratings>

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/teenagers/online/parents-guide-to-the-latest-social-media-and-instant-messaging-apps>

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about LIVE STREAMING

Live streaming involves broadcasting and watching videos online in real time, often on social media or via platforms like YouTube and Twitch. Viewers can interact through comments, chats and reactions during the broadcast: such instant engagement makes this an exciting way to share experiences, learn from others and build digital communities. Despite the many positives, live streaming also creates a potential platform for unsuitable content and poses some risks to children: it's essential to keep privacy and safety in mind and comply with each site or app's age restrictions.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

LACK OF AGE VERIFICATION



Despite their age restrictions, some platforms don't require proof of age at sign up – meaning that anyone can register for an account (and potentially pretend to be older or younger than they actually are). In many cases, this means that young live streamers can never be totally certain exactly who they are broadcasting to and who is engaging with their live stream.

DISCLOSING PERSONAL INFO



A characteristic of live streaming is the ability for videos to be instantly shared worldwide. Without the correct privacy settings enabled, a child could inadvertently reveal personal information or their location, making them vulnerable to online predators or identity theft. It's wise to regularly check the privacy settings (and what data is being shared) on any apps your child has signed up for.

ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN



As the video streams are live, children might encounter (or inadvertently share) inappropriate content. Most live-streaming apps have rules to prevent this and monitor their services, also providing report buttons where content can be flagged for review. It may not be dealt with instantly, however, meaning that your child could be further exposed to harmful content during a live stream.

UNAUTHORISED RECORDINGS



Each live streaming platform stores completed videos for different periods (Twitch saves broadcasts for 60 days, for example, while Facebook and YouTube remove them only at the creator's request). Deleting a video, though, doesn't always stop it from being shared; in some cases, streams have been illegally recorded (or screenshots taken) by certain viewers and redistributed on other sites.

ROGUE CONTENT CREATORS



Children can also watch other people's live streams, which could potentially contain anything at any time (such as nudity, drug use or profanity). Most apps claim to monitor live streams and will stop any that don't adhere to their guidelines – but with millions of streams per day, it's complicated to regulate them all, so children could be exposed to inappropriate content without parents knowing.

DANGER OF GROOMING



There are increasing reports of children being coerced into performing "suggestive acts" by strangers on some live-streaming apps. Due to the lack of verification required for certain apps, almost anyone can sign up to these services (including anonymously or under a fake identity). It's vital, therefore, to ensure the correct safety measures are in place before your child begins live streaming.

Advice for Parents & Carers

PUT PRIVACY FIRST



Through the streaming app's settings, switch your child's account to 'private', so only their friends and followers can see their broadcasts. You could also turn off the live chat, shielding your child from any upsetting comments – although viewers' feedback is often seen as an integral part of the fun. Identify any nearby items (such as school uniforms or visible landmarks) that could give away your child's location.

MANAGE MULTISTREAMING



Some apps and sites let users stream their content through multiple social media platforms at once. A broadcast on SteamYard, for example, can be shared on YouTube, Twitch, X and Facebook if the accounts are linked. The privacy settings can differ on each of these, so we'd suggest only streaming via one platform at a time to maintain greater control over who's watching your child's videos.

GET INVOLVED YOURSELF



Research suggests a significant number of streams show a child on their own, often in a supposed safe space like their bedroom. If your child wants to live stream, ask if you could be present because you're interested in how it works. You could even set up your own account to gain a more detailed knowledge of what your child talks about in their live streams – and who they're broadcasting to.

TALK ABOUT LIVE STREAMING

Try to start with positives before discussing potential risks. You could ask which live streaming apps your child likes and how they use them. Do they just watch streams or create their own? Explain why it's unwise to reveal personal information while streaming (even to friends). If you feel your child's too young for live streams, explain your reasoning to them and perhaps agree to review this decision in the future.



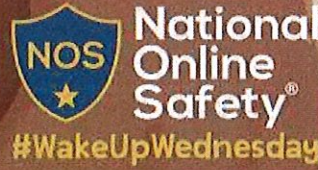
CONSIDER THEIR ONLINE REPUTATION



As the broadcasts are live, it often causes the misconception among young people that whatever happens in their video simply 'vanishes' once the stream ends. However, videos can stay online indefinitely or be recorded by other users. It's important that your child understands what they do and say in a live stream could potentially damage their online reputation and, quite possibly, be seen by prospective future employers, colleges or universities.

Meet Our Expert

Rhodi Smith is Head of Digital Learning at Thomas's Kensington, London. Recognised in the EdTech 50 UK Awards Yearbook 2021/22 for his efforts in the digital transformation at Cubitt Town Primary School and Tower Hamlets, he is also a Google for Education Certified Trainer and guest lectures at University College London on the integration of technology across the curriculum.



Source: <https://www.ixf.org.uk/media/2333nc2/distribution-of-captures-of-live-streamed-child-sexual-abuse-final.pdf>

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