

Keeping our children safe!

Water Safety

Young people can be encouraged to cool off in water when the weather is as hot as it has been recently. Bodies of water such as rivers, quarries, ponds etc. hide dangers below along with currents and freezing cold temperatures.

With the summer holidays approaching please speak with your children about water safety and supervise all water based activities.



Road Safety

As part of our commitment to keeping our children safe, we'd like to remind everyone about the importance of road safety during the Summer Holidays.

Stop, Look, Listen, Think:

Teach your child to stop at the kerb, look both ways, listen for traffic, and think before crossing the road.

Use the zebra crossing:

Always use designated pedestrian crossings and encourage your child to do the same—even if the road seems quiet.

Avoid Distractions:

Please ensure children aren't using phones or other devices while walking near roads.



Safeguarding Team



Mrs Molloy



Mrs Worsfold



Mrs Ryan

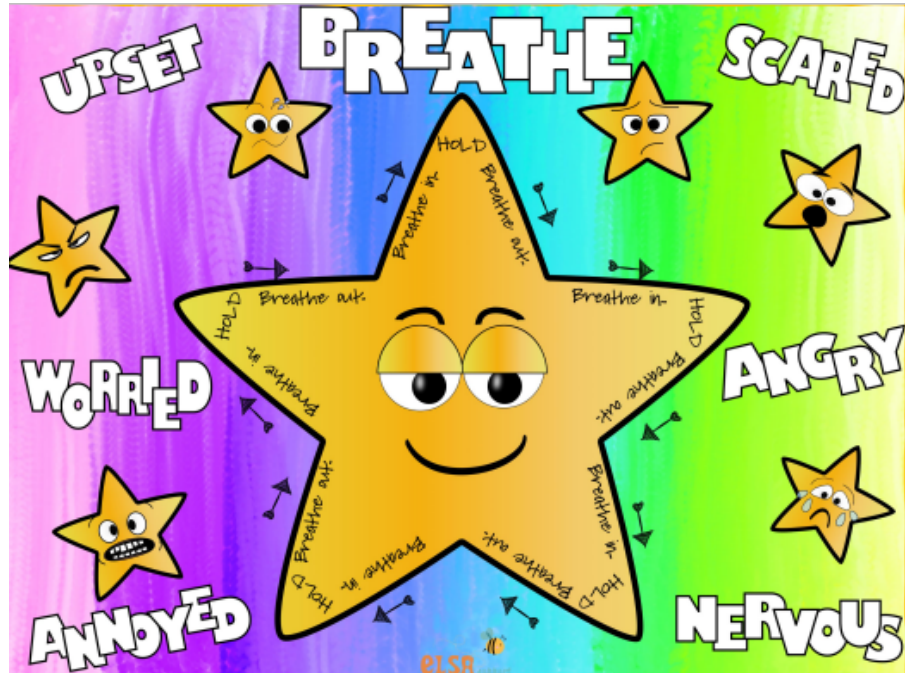


Moving on!

Moving on to a new school, new class, new teacher and new friends is exciting but not for all children. This can


be a very scary time for some. It's important for children to know that it is OK to feel this way and to have their feelings validated.


Have a look on our website to see resources and ideas children. to help you support





Stay Grounded Using Your 5 Senses


Relax Your Body, Take a Few Deep Breaths and Focus on the Following...

5 Things You Can See 

4 Things You Can Feel 

3 Things You Can Hear 

2 Things You Can Smell 

1 Thing You Can Taste 

Spotlight on: Snapchat

Keeping your child safe on Snapchat: A parent's guide: Many children become more engaged with social media at a young age and Snapchat is one of the most popular apps among them. It is important to note that the minimum age requirement for using Snapchat is 13 years old. While Snapchat can be a fun way for children to stay connected with friends, it also comes with risks.

What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is a social media app that allows users to send photos, videos and messages that disappear after being viewed. It also includes features like Stories, Snap Maps, and AI chatbots.

Risks of Snapchat While Snapchat can be enjoyable, there are risks parents should be aware of:

- **Disappearing messages:** disappearing Snaps encourage children to participate in more risky behaviour. They might send things that they wouldn't usually as they know it will disappear.
- **Stranger danger:** strangers can contact your child if their privacy settings are not secure.
- **Snap Maps:** this feature shows a user's location in real-time, which can put children at risk if not managed properly.
- **Inappropriate content:** children may come across content that is not age appropriate.
- **Pressure to maintain "Streaks":** Streaks (sending Snaps daily) can create unnecessary pressure and anxiety for children.

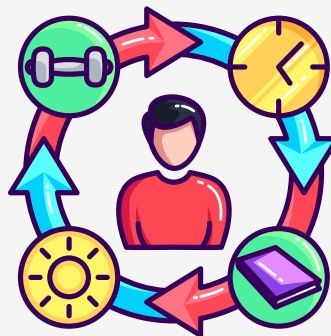
How can you keep your children safe?



Have open conversations about online safety



Agree and set online boundaries



Model responsible digital habits

The_Enlightened_Parent



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

SNAP STREAK

97

DAYS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GENERATIVE AI SAFETY

Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 3 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 5 the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and overuse. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY



Generative AI can sometimes produce false or misleading content. Children – and even adults – may assume the information is accurate and trustworthy. This can affect learning and understanding of important topics. It's vital to teach children to critically assess all information, even when it comes from AI.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Because generative AI is trained on vast datasets from across the internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate harmful or inappropriate content. Without supervision, children could encounter disturbing or unsuitable material. Active monitoring and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.

PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

Some AI tools ask for personal details or store users' interactions. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be exposed or misused. Teaching good digital hygiene and setting strong privacy controls is essential for protecting children online.

REDUCED CRITICAL THINKING



Relying too heavily on AI-generated responses may reduce children's willingness to think independently. If they consistently use AI to solve problems or complete tasks, it could impact their ability to reason, analyse and form their own ideas. Encouraging thoughtful reflection is key.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY



Regular use of generative AI can contribute to increased screen time and less real-world interaction. If left unmanaged, it may affect physical activity levels, sleep, and social development. Striking a healthy balance between online and offline activities is important for wellbeing.

UNCLEAR ETHICAL BOUNDARIES



Children may not fully understand the ethical implications of using AI to complete homework or creative tasks. This can lead to unintentional plagiarism or dishonest academic practices. Conversations around responsible use and academic honesty are crucial.

IDEAS

Advice for Parents & Educators

ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES

Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Reinforce these regularly to help children develop a healthy, respectful and informed relationship with the technology.



ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION

Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and seek out additional trusted sources. This builds essential digital literacy skills and supports better decision-making.



PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION

Keep an eye on how the children in your care use AI tools. Check in regularly to ensure they're using them appropriately and be ready to step in if something doesn't feel right.



ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS

Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Make sure privacy settings are in place and explain how data shared with AI tools could be used.



Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keefe, Deputy Headmaster and Director of Digital Strategy at Eaton House Schools, has extensive expertise in digital safety, safeguarding, and generative AI in education. As an author and speaker on digital literacy and online safety for institutions such as The National College, Brendan guides parents and educators in creating safe digital learning environments.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

USEFUL WEBSITES AND LINKS

This is a useful website regarding social media, age restrictions and children's maturity levels: [Thinkuknow](#)

[Parent safe](#)

[NSPCC](#)

[Your Internet Matters](#)



HELP, ADVICE AND RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

[Get Safe Online](#)



[Child Net](#)

[CEOP](#)

[Think you know](#)





What do I do if.....

We are often asked what to do if someone suspects a child is at risk of harm.

If the child attends our setting then please come and speak with one of the safeguarding team where we can advise and signpost you accordingly.

If the child is not in our setting or speaking to us is not an option EG. School closed/ danger is imminent then follow the following pathways.

If a child is in imminent danger call 999

If the child is at risk of significant danger you can call (dependant on the Childs address):

Central Beds Integrated Front Door 0300 300 8585

Luton Mash 01582 547653

Bedford Borough Integrated Front Door 01234 718700

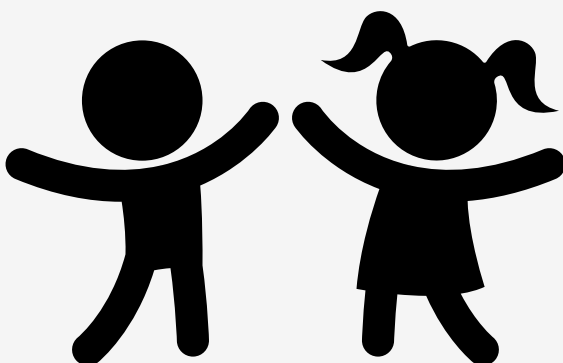
Emergency Duty Team 000 300 8123

Or follow the link below where you can report through the NSPCC

Report child abuse

Our voice Helpline is currently available 10am–4pm Monday to Friday. You can still email help@NSPCC.org.uk or complete our report abuse online form at any time for free. You don't have to say who you are.

Contact us



*Together we can
keep children safe*

Contact:
01582 865047
safeguarding@Tithefarmprimary.co.uk



**STAY
SAFE**

**ENJOY THE
SUMMER
BREAK**

