



Week 2

Online Safety Fact Check for Parents



Q1. Can social isolation increase risks associated with live streaming?

Answer: Potentially yes. As we abide by current 'Stay Home' guidelines some of us are turning to live streaming and video calls to keep in touch with friends and family. Make sure you talk about the risks of live streaming with your child and decide together who they can use them with and where in the house it is ok to use. If access is allowed in bedrooms the risks will increase, especially late at night if phone or other devices are kept with the child.

Q2. What is YOTI?

Answer: YOTI is a digital identity app that lets you encrypt your ID. They have worked with Childline to create a feature for children enabling children to report youth produced sexualised images of themselves that have been shared, to get them removed.

■ www.yoti.com/blog/helping-under-18s-anonymously-report-their-sexting-images

Q3. Can you block other users on Roblox?

Answer: Yes. As with games/apps, there are ways to block and report users.

■ <https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/203314270-How-to-Block-Another-User>

Q4. If your child accesses the internet at home through 3G/4G will the parental controls installed through your WI-FI still apply?

Answer: No. Phone connections don't necessarily have parental controls enabled as default and won't be covered by the WI-FI parental controls if not connected. It is best to speak with your phone provider to see what they can offer to protect users under 18 years.

Q5. What is Swiggle?

Answer: It is a child friendly search engine. Results are filtered using Google SafeSearch and educational resources are prioritised. Search terms are also filtered to ensure searches are appropriate.

■ www.swiggle.org.uk

Q6. How do I find out if someone I follow on Instagram is paid to endorse products?

Answer: The Safer Internet Centre have provided a good guide below but essentially it's about looking at the post and the hashtags, how the picture is taken, reading all of the text and what it says.

■ www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/stories-posts-how-spot-advertising-instagram

Q7. Can I report an underage user on TikTok?

Answer: Yes. You can report directly to TikTok via email; privacy@tiktok.com

■ www.tiktok.com/safety/resources/for-parents?lang=en&applaunch=web

Q8. What does 'Ghost Mode' mean on the Snapchat facility Snapmaps?

Answer: That no-one can see your location. On Snapchat, there is a function called Snapmaps which allows users to see the exact location of their Snapchat contacts as well as location based photos and videos. By putting the setting on Ghost mode, no-one can see your location however the settings don't default to this so you would need to check this along with who your child's friends are.

■ <https://support.snapchat.com/en-GB/article/snap-map-about>

■ <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/introducing-'snap-maps'-new-location-sharing-feature-snapchat>

Q9. You've seen a post on Facebook which says that by posting a legal notice on your Facebook wall or Instagram feed, this will protect you from having all your posts and photos from being made public. Is this true?

Answer: No. This is an example of fake news being shared on social media. It's important before you share or repost something that you double check the facts given. It's best to check the source of the information (don't take someone's word that the information shared has come from a reputable source) and think about whether the information sound right to you and when it was originally shared? If you're not sure, then check a reputable external website.

In regards to this specific post, this has been circulating for over 5 years and is not true. You cannot go against the terms and conditions of the social media site purely by posting a status. Social network sites do not technically own its members content, however it may use any content that is not protected under the privacy and application settings such as public photos and comments.