



Week 3

# Online Safety Fact Check for Parents



## Q1. How many primary age children have live streamed?

**Answer:** The NSPCC conducted a survey in 2018. At that time it reflected that 19% of primary age children had already live streamed.

■ [www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/news-opinion/livestreaming-video-chat-online-safety/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/news-opinion/livestreaming-video-chat-online-safety/)

## Q2. Is it true or false that in our lives we spend more time on social media than we do eating and drinking?

**Answer:** True! According to the NSPCC we will spend 5 years and 4 months accessing social media.

## Q3. What is a digital footprint?

**Answer:** Whenever you visit a website, share a photo or make a comment online you are leaving behind a digital footprint. This ‘footprint’ includes information about you and may be positive or negative dependant on what you’ve shared/commented. You may have noticed that advertisements reflect your searches online; this is due to your digital footprint. The majority of employers are now searching for your digital footprint online to gain an understanding of what you may be like as a potential employee. Even when you delete something, it isn’t necessarily gone if it has been saved or screenshot elsewhere.

Talking to children about their digital footprint is key and one way to understand it can be referred to as the “nan” test (although the name can be changed to another family member or also called the “poster/billboard” test) Before you send or post a message or image, think about whether you would be happy to show it to a relative/teacher or have it put on a poster or billboard in your local town centre. If the answer is no because it’s inappropriate, nasty, embarrassing etc. then you should not share it.”

■ [www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/taking-care-your-digital-footprint](http://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/taking-care-your-digital-footprint)

■ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=txy95Js25WI>

## Q4. What are the age ratings for Whatsapp, Fortnite, Roblox and TikTok?

**Answer:** Whatsapp is rated a 16, Fortnite is rated a 12, Roblox is a 7 and TikTok is rated a 13

## Q5. Should I sign up to the same games and apps as my children?

**Answer:** Yes. It's a good idea to sign up to the same games and apps so you can understand how they work, where the safety features and privacy settings are whilst recognising potential risks. Have a discussion with your child about what they like about the game and what they don't like, understand how they can keep themselves safe and continue to monitor their use.

## Q6. How can I remove followers on social media?

**Answer:** You can remove followers directly from the account. For more information, it's best to go directly to the help site of the app or game.

■ [www.internetmatters.org/blog/parental-controls/social-media/](http://www.internetmatters.org/blog/parental-controls/social-media/)

## Q7. What is Zoom?

**Answer:** Zoom is a video conference app.

Video chat and video conferencing calls are becoming increasingly popular as a way to keep in touch during the current times. Does your child know everyone that they are talking to via the conversations they are joining? If friends of friends/siblings of friends are involved, do they actually know them?

## Q8. What actions should I take in relation to an online scare story?

**Answer:** Check facts first and check whether the story is true on sites like NSPCC and ParentZone. Don't share it and let friends/family know there are hoaxes about. Have a general online safety conversation with your child about what to do if they see something that worries them.

## Q9. In February 2020, an Instagrammer uploaded pictures to her Instagram page and told her 330,000+ followers she was on holiday in Bali. Where did she actually go to take the photographs?

**Answer:** Her local Ikea! The American influencer revealed she convinced her fans into thinking she was on holiday in Bali when, in fact, she never travelled to Indonesia and all her holiday photos were taken at her local Ikea store. In the background of some of the photos, you can see the Ikea labels on the furniture.

It's important to have the conversation that not everything we see online is true, as pictures can be heavily edited or manipulated.