

## E-safety newsletter

### Autumn 2023

Edition 3

Do you know the latest statistics for children being exploited online?

What are the latest online developments to be aware of?

Do your children speak to you if they are worried about something online?



## School Website

Have you had a look at the E-safety section on the school website recently? It is regularly updated with the latest statistics and advice for keeping your child safe online. The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) report is definitely worth a look at. It can be easy to think that children in the younger years in primary school are not as at much risk of harm when using the internet. The findings in this report show this is not the case! Follow the link below to take a look:

<https://www.bentfieldprimaryschool.co.uk/e-safety-2/>

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## Omegle

Omegle has been a headache for those concerned with protecting children for a decade and a half. On first glance the site is a simple internet chatroom, reminiscent of platforms from the internet's early years. It has no registration or account system. Being designed with the originally innocent objective of getting strangers to talk to each other, but this allows under-18s to easily use the platform, without needing parental assistance, money or even an email address. This already creates a dangerous situation to young pupils, but its insistence on users needing a webcam to chat places anyone underage in an extremely vulnerable place. To find out more about

Omegle and the risks it poses, please follow the links below:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/what-is-omegle-what-parents-need-to-know/>

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/what-is-omegle-key-things-parents-and-carers-need-to-know/>

## Threads

This is currently the number one trending social media app. It is Meta's (the company behind Facebook and Instagram) rival to Twitter. There is a 12+ age limit on the platform. There are concerns over data-collection via the app and how this will be used – so reading the small print if your child is getting an account is recommended. There are other options on Threads which can make the app safer to use: comments and posts with offensive language or emojis can be filtered out; privacy settings can be put in place to limit who can see your posts; and the likes count can be hidden to reduce the chance of users feeling anxiety about the number they have or have not got.

## Self-Generated Images

A risk of children being online is children being groomed into producing and sharing self-generated, explicit images of themselves (sexting). In the IWF report, it is clear that the trend of sexualised images of children is becoming younger and younger. From 2021 to 2022 there was a 129% increase in the number of self-generated images of 7-10 year-olds on the internet. The report also found inappropriate images of 3-6 year-olds (over 11,000) in 2022; many as a result of older siblings being groomed into creating and sharing explicit images of younger siblings. The IWF have created guidance and a campaign to raise awareness and help parents to support their children in avoiding this issue. See the link below for more information:

<https://www.iwf.org.uk/about-us/our-campaigns/talk-and-gurls-out-loud-self-generated-child-sexual-abuse-prevention-campaign/>



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