

# E safety Update



## **1. What is Kik and should your child be using it?** February 2016

Kik, like the past, is a foreign country.

The mobile chat app of choice for 40% of US teenagers (according to the company) contains an entire version of the internet inside its virtual borders, but like those pesky high-frequency ringtones, Kik is largely inscrutable to people born before the turn of the millennium

**Link:** <http://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/feb/16/what-is-kik-app-online-anonymous-tech-nicole-madison-lovell>

## **2. New Measures To Keep Children Off Porn Sites**

The NSPCC says children must not be given access to adult content online as it can give them "a warped view of relationships".

Pornographic websites will require users to verify their age in a bid to stop children viewing harmful material online.

Companies that fail to put safeguards in place will face civil sanctions under a new legal framework announced by the Government.

A public consultation will determine the best way to protect underage children from viewing X-rated material.

Although figures are hard to verify, Comscore statistics from last year show that one in 10 UK visitors to adult websites were children.

Internet Safety and Security Minister Baroness Shields said: "The internet is a tremendous resource for learning and creativity but it is important to make sure that children are able to make the most of all it has to offer in a safe way.

**Link:** <http://news.sky.com/story/1642642/new-measures-to-keep-children-off-porn-sites>

## **3. Third of cyber crime victims are under 18**

Cyber crime is becoming an increasing problem for children and teenagers.

Almost a third of cyber crime victims last year were less than 18 years old and the number of online crime victims in that age group has increased by 163%.

Avon and Somerset police are taking part in a national campaign to try and teach children and teenagers the importance of staying safe online.

Videos have been released as part of 'Safer Internet Day'

**Link:** <http://www.itv.com/news/west/2016-02-09/third-of-cyber-crime-victims-are-under-18/>

**For more information about e safety :**

- go to <http://www.blackpoolaspireacademy.co.uk>
- come into school and talk to a member of Student Services

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## ***4. Young ignore social media age limit***

All schools to filter inappropriate content and teach pupils about staying safe including online harm.

All schools will be required to put in place strengthened measures to protect children from harm online - including cyber bullying, pornography and the risk of radicalisation - under plans unveiled by Education Secretary Nicky Morgan today (22 December 2015).

Link: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-35524429>

## ***5. What are four of the top social media networks doing to protect children?***

With reports of cyberbullying on the rise, a guide to what Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat and Instagram are doing, and whether it's enough. According to recent report from NSPCC, ChildLine conducted 35,000 counselling sessions for low self-esteem between April 2014 and March 2015. The report blames "a constant onslaught from cyber-bullying, social media and the desire to copy celebrities," as key reasons.

### **Facebook**

Facebook's rules states under-13s can't sign up, but research from EU Kids Online and the LSE found half of 11 to 12-year-olds are on Facebook..

Announcing the recent formation of the Online Civil Courage Initiative – a partnership between Facebook and NGOs to fund counter speech campaigns against terrorism and bullying . Facebook polices the content on its own site on a report by report basis, relying on users to report posts to its "around the clock" global support teams.

### **Twitter**

The company says it has streamlined the process of reporting harassment and has made improvements around reporting other content issues including impersonation and the sharing of private and confidential information.

Crucially the site has updated its enforcement procedures too, claiming to use both an automated and human response to conduct investigations and follow appropriate actions swiftly. The site says it will take action against abusers depending on severity, ranging from requiring specific tweets to be deleted to permanently suspending accounts

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## Snapchat

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A report from last year's Safer Internet Day found that Snapchat is the third most popular messaging or social media app among the 11 to 16 age group (behind Facebook and YouTube).

The app has community guidelines which outline what users shouldn't send others, including harassment, threats and nudity, and as with other sites and apps, users can block people and report abuse.

It has a safety centre with safety tips and advice, produced in partnership with experts from iKeepSafe, UK Safer Internet Centre and ConnectSafely. And in November, the app partnered with Vodafone to raise awareness of cyberbullying by offering users emojis designed to be shared as an act against online abuse.

## Instagram

Owned by Facebook since 2012, Instagram has community guidelines and tips for parents that address questions such as, "who can see my teen's photos?". Like Facebook, users have to be aged 13 or over, though it's easy to lie about your age and sign up. Instagram encourages users to report those underage via an online form or through in-app reporting. This reporting also applies to abusive content, impersonation and hate accounts.

The company claims it monitors reports 24/7 to investigate abuse, shut down accounts and report to relevant authorities. Again there are no public stats to enable an accurate measure of effectiveness.

The ability to follow accounts of people you don't know and access unsuitable material has been highlighted by the NSPCC, although the charity says most content is deemed low risk.

**Link:** <http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2016/feb/09/social-media-networks-child-protection-policies-facebook-twitter-instagram-snapchat>

## ***5. Children as young as four acting out fight scenes from X-rated video game***

Horrified teachers at a Church of England primary school have spotted children as young as four acting out scenes from the X-rated video game Grand Theft Auto V.

The game features a shocking torture scene in which players can waterboard a character, break his knee caps with a wrench, give him electric shocks with a car battery, and pull out his teeth with pliers. It also allows players to 'get high' on drugs before mowing down bystanders with a machine gun.

**Link::** <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3431624/Horrified-teachers-C-E-primary-school-spot-children-young-FOUR-acting-fight-scenes-X-rated-video-game-Grand-Theft-Auto-V.html#ixzz3zaWTwUrK>