QEGS BLACKBURN

Knowsley City Learning Centres

Online Safety Newsletter May 2023

Snapchat update: My AI

You should be over 13+ to use Snapchat.

Snapchat have announced that My AI will now be available to all users, it was previously only available to paid subscribers of Snapchat+. My AI will show as one of your chat contacts and users will be able to ask it questions and have a conversation with it.

Snapchat are planning to incorporate an overview in their parental tools (Family Centre) to allow you to see if your child is chatting with My AI, but there is no confirmed date as to when this additional tool will be available.

There were concerns with My AI when initially released, for example it was providing responses that weren't always age appropriate. Snapchat have stated that 99.5% of responses now conform to their community guidelines, but we would recommend talking to your child about their use of My AI.

At present the only way to delete My AI is to become a Snapchat+ subscriber.

You can find out more here: https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/13266788358932-What-is-My-AI-on-Snapchat-and-how-do-I-use-it-

Minecraft Legends

Minecraft Legends was released last month and is available across a variety of platforms. It is rated as 7+ by PEGI with a further content descriptor of 'violence.' However, when rating games, PEGI do not take into consideration the communication features of a game. Minecraft Legends does include a chat facility, which adds further risks of seeing inappropriate language/content. This can be switched off.

What should I be aware of?

- **Multiplayer** – children can interact with others (including strangers), you can switch this option off within settings or choose to play offline.
- **Additional purchases** – be aware of in app purchases and the purchase of additional items to support (although not needed) game play. You can set up appropriate parental settings to restrict/prevent purchases.
- **Block and report players** – if your child is playing with others, make sure they know how to block and report players within the game.

You can find out more in this article: https://www.esrb.org/blog/what-parents-need-to-know-about-minecraft-legends/

Report Remove

Report Remove is a tool provided by Childline and the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) to help those under the age of 18 to confidentially report if sexual images or videos of themselves have been shared online. Once a report has been made, the IWF will work to remove them from the internet. Find out more here: https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/remove-nude-image-shared-online/

From the Financial Times – 'Capture: who's looking after the children?'

This is a 15-minute drama produced by the Financial Times looking at online harm, regulation and responsibility. The drama features Jodie Whittaker and Paul Ready. You can watch it here: https://www.ft.com/video/ea39f3a9-8993-477d-a763-317ba51c2e75

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into.
Current as of the date released 1.5.23.

Omegle

You must be 18+ to use or 13+ with parental permission. Omegle is a social networking/chat website that **connects two strangers** together for either a text or a video chat. Chats are anonymous unless a user provides this information. Omegle states that "Omegle video chat is moderated. However, moderation is not perfect. You may still encounter people who misbehave."

What should I be aware of?

- No registration is required to access Omegle (therefore no age verification) and there are no reporting facilities.
- Users are given an option to save the chat's log and share the link. It is also possible for other users to take screenshots of text and video chats.

We recommend that Omegle is not used by children due to the potential imagery shared and language used which can be explicit.

You can find out more information from Childnet, including ways of keeping your child safe:

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

Studying for exams?

BBC Bitesize – Revision App: The BBC Bitesize Revision app helps you study for your GCSEs, TGAU, Nationals or Highers with free flashcards and revision guides from the BBC. It is aimed at 14-16 year olds studying for their exams.

Senaca Learning: This website includes content across a variety of subjects to help you prepare for your GCSE & A Level exams. https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/

Maths Genie: This is a free website, which includes subject videos, past exam papers and answers to help you revise for Math's GCSE and A Level exams. https://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/

Microsoft Family Safety app

Does your child have a Microsoft device e.g. an Xbox? If so, you can access the Microsoft Family Safety mobile app, which provides you with a variety of free features including:

- The ability to set screen time limits to devices, apps and games.
- Set content filters and block inappropriate apps/games.

Additional features such as location sharing are available as part of a paid subscription.

To access the app, you will need to enter your mobile number or email address at the link below and Microsoft will send you a download link:

https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/family-safety

Tackling Online Hate

One way in which we can tackle online hate is ensuring our children learn about what it is and how they can stop it. Internet Matters have created a quiz that you can complete with your child. As you progress through the questions, you will be given advice as well as questions to discuss and help you have a conversation with your child. The quiz is available here:

https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/theonlinetogetherproject/tackling-online-hate-quiz/

What is Online Grooming?

This is a really informative article from Thorn: https://www.thorn.org/blog/online-grooming-what-it-is-how-it-happens-and-how-to-defend-children/