

# Online Safety

# Newsletter

January 2017

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## What's in this newsletter

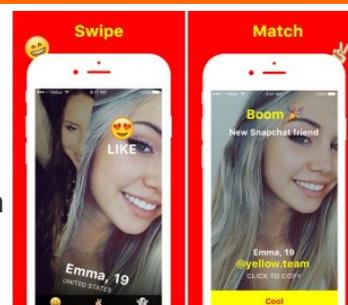
In this newsletter you will find:

- Item for Parent's Newsletter—Yellow app
- Key guidance for Ofsted inspectors relating to online safety
- Safer Internet Day 2017 including Somerset pledge
- Digital Leader top internet tips
- New privacy tools for Instagram
- New year, new thinking—changing approach to online safety education

## Item for Parent's Newsletter

Yellow is an app that parents of children using Snapchat will need to be aware of and be ready to discuss. It is now the second most popular free lifestyle app after Tinder on the Apple app store in the UK. It has an age 18 rating but has no checks on the age of the user. It has been described as Tinder for teens although the makers describe it as a way to make new friends on Snapchat. When you sign up to this third party app, you will be asked, "Are you looking for boys, girls or both?" You are then asked to allow access to your location. You can then swipe right to contact someone or to accept someone who will then get your Snapchat

username. [This blog](#) by a parent of a 13 and a 15 year old makes interesting reading. It includes the statement, **'So if your teen downloads Yellow they will be able to flirt via Snapchat with people who may or not be the age they say they are and who mostly live within a 60-mile radius of your house.'**



## Key guidance for Ofsted Inspectors

In December, the ['Ofsted - developments in education inspection' blog](#) included a briefing on revisions to safeguarding guidance.

Within this there is a reminder that Ofsted inspectors should expect every setting to have a staff behaviour policy or code of conduct. This should include, among other things:

- acceptable use of technologies
- staff/pupil relationships and communications
- the use of social media.

TURN OVER FOR MORE

## Safer Internet Day 2017

Your school has almost certainly got Tuesday 7th February in the calendar and begun planning for how Safer Internet Day will be used to reinforce your e-safety/online safety. Make sure your school has registered as a supporter and check out the [Education Packs](#) and [SID TV films](#) to explore the theme: **'Be the change: unite for a better internet.'**



SID resources explore the power of image - both for positive and negative - in digital youth culture. Image and video sharing are powerful tools of communication, self expression and creativity, but there can be pressures, risks and potential negative consequences. We need to ensure children have the skills, knowledge, confidence and resilience to communicate using images and videos safely and creatively.



Somerset's pledge for 2017 is Sharing and Caring

- Choose what to watch
- Consider what to share
- Care about the effect on others

[Sign your school up here](#)

## Digital Leader Top Internet Tips

Childnet Digital Leaders are championing digital citizenship with six of their top internet safety tips including **Being yourself:**

- You can tell people it's ok to be different .
- You don't have to be forced into doing things you don't like.
- People should understand it's ok to be different so they should be themselves and be proud of it.
- Your children may be interested to discuss [this and the other tips](#).

## New Privacy tools for Instagram

In December, Instagram announced three new tools which give users more control over their profiles. These tools allow users to control comments on their posts, edit follower lists on private accounts and anonymously report when they think their friends need help. Check this out at [Childnet.com](#).

## New year, new thinking

Is it time for us to adopt new models for our approach to discussing safe use of technology with parents? A more mature approach to online safety education has been emerging both for young children and for teenagers. Danah Boyd's new book, ['It's Complicated'](#) (free to download as a pdf), looks at what is new about how teenagers communicate through services such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram? Do social media affect the quality of teens' lives? She considers some of the major myths regarding teens' use of social media, exploring themes of identity, privacy, safety, danger, and bullying. Boyd argues that society fails young people when paternalism and protectionism hinder teenagers' ability to become informed, thoughtful, and engaged citizens through their online interactions. Yet despite an environment of rampant fear-mongering, she finds that teens often find ways to engage and to develop a sense of identity.

A recent [LSE Parenting for a Digital Future blog post](#) considers advice given to parents about screen time. 'Should the mother of a four-year-old and a one-year-old exclude the younger child from the living room when the older one is watching his daily prescribed dose of 'high quality programming'? If a dad is watching football on a Saturday afternoon, must he exclude both children from the room lest their brains receive sub-optimising media input? When older cousins come to stay, can all the children watch a Disney movie together or must each child stick to their own schedule and content requirements?'

Perhaps we need to avoid imposing a view of expected family rules that are separated from circumstances including the way the technology is experienced.