Darell Primary School
E-safety Newsletter June 2023

What is an Influencer?

An influencer is somebody prominent on a social media platform such as YouTube and Instagram, who have a high number of followers. Influencers share their opinions/ideas and may be paid to advertise promote products through their account. Whist there are some great influencers, there are some that choose to share their own opinions, which could be misogynistic or racist for example. These opinions can be expressed or interpreted as fact. It is important to talk to your child about the spread of misinformation online and how we should fact check and critically analyse what we see and hear online.

What we see on social media platforms is influenced by algorithms, which predict what type of content we are most likely to interact with. Whilst there are benefits of algorithms, it can mean that once we start looking at certain content, our social media feed can become more aligned with that opinion, so we don't see a balanced picture. You can find out more here: https://www.childnet.com/blog/algorithms/

Further information

The NSPCC have created an article detailing what you need to know about online influencers. You can read it here: https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/2023-05-16-the-influence-of-influencers/

Rec Room

Rec Room is available across different platforms and is free to play.
It can be played with or without a VR headset. Rec room consists of player created rooms, in which players can play games and interact with others.

Rec Room is rated as 9+ by the App store. For players under 13 years of age, they are assigned a junior account. When creating a junior account, you can also add your own
email address, which will allow you to manage your child's password and
other settings such as in app purchases. Users with a junior account will not be able to message each other.

You should be aware of the following if your child is playing Rec Room:

In app purchases: make sure your
bank account details are not linked to
the device your child is playing on.
Chat: if your child does not have a junior account then there is a chat facility within Rec Room so there is a risk that your child could communicate with strangers.
Inappropriate content: your child may come across themes or content that is not appropriate for your child.

Rec Room does have reporting facilities so if your child is playing Rec Room, then please ensure they know how to use them and to talk to a trusted adult if they see anything that concerns them.
You can find out more about Rec
Room here: https://recroom.com/parents-guide

Omegle

Omegle have updated their terms and conditions. You must be 18+ to use Omegle. 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 should not be accessed by children due to the potential imagery shared and language used which can be explicit.

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.
You can find out more information from Internet Matters, including
imitation apps that you should also be aware of: **https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/what-is-omegle-what-parents-need-to-know/**

What is artificial intelligence (AI)?

AI is when a computer/machine can learn and perform tasks like a human. Its popularity is increasing due to the likes of ChatGPT and more recently, My AI from Snapchat.

Childnet have produced this blog about Snapchat's My AI:
https://www.childnet.com/blog/snapchats-new-ai-chatbot-and-its-impact-on-young-people/