ONLINE SAFETY NEWS

January 2024

SNAPCHAT'S NEW AI CHATBOT AND IT'S IMPACT ON YOUNG PEOPLE

Snapchat has introduced a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) chatbot called "My AI" designed to help users with various tasks through their messaging section in the Snapchat app.

While this new feature can be helpful, there are some potential risks to young people who use this feature. In this article, Childnet explores the latest AI chatbot on Snapchat and its potential impact on young people.

What do I need to know about ChatGPT?

ChatGPT is an artificial intelligence chatbot which can be found online. Similarly to a robotic customer service often found on the corner of a website or app, ChatGPT generates content and answers based on a user's question.

Childnet's guide for parents and carers discusses why it's important for parents and carers to talk with young people about how to use ChatGPT in an educational and safe way.

UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONDING TO ONLINE CHALLENGES

When a viral challenge is reported in the news or on social media, it can be difficult to establish the facts, risks, and what you need to do to protect the young people in your care.

iNEQE Safeguarding Group has published an article to explain what you need to know and how to respond to online challenges. The good news is that most online challenges will burn out and lose popularity!

'While these challenges often die out in a short space of time, it's vital that those with children and young people in their care understand what these challenges are, and how to respond accordingly.'

REPORT REMOVE

Report Remove has been designed to help young people under 18 in the UK to confidentially report sexual images and videos of themselves and remove them from the internet. The Report Remove tool can be used by any young person under 18 to report a nude image or video of themselves that has appeared online. The IWF (Internet Watch Foundation) will then review this content and work to have it removed if it breaks the law.

REPORTING ONLINE GROOMING AND SEXUAL ABUSE

If you're worried that your child is being groomed online or sexually exploited, you should report your concerns to CEOP.

CEOP is part of the National Crime Agency and can investigate what is happening – with the assurance that the safety and wellbeing of your child is paramount at all times.

It is not always easy to spot the signs of online grooming and sexual exploitation so if you have any concern at all about someone your child is in contact with, you should get in touch right away.

You should always report if your child is or has been in contact with someone who is:

- Chatting online to your child about sex
- Asking them to do sexual things on webcam
- Asking to meet up if they've only met them online
- Requesting sexual pictures
- Forcing them into sexual activity
- Making them feel unsafe

You can make a report to CEOP using the CEOP Safety Centre:

If you are concerned that your child is in immediate danger, call 999.

This newsletter has been produced based on information provided through CEOP, therefore is as reliable as we can provide as of the date of the publication of this newsletter: January 2024.

If we can support you, your family or children with any issues relating to points raised in this newsletter or for any other concerns please do contact one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads:

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