

Online Safety Newsletter

December 2022



This year's anti bullying theme was 'reaching out', suggesting that children can talk to friends, family and teachers if they feel like they are being bullied or cyberbullied. Cyber bullying is repetitive abuse that takes place online through social media or gaming apps.

Regular conversations with your child about cyberbullying allows for opportunities to discuss and support them with staying safe online. Asking questions such as 'How can you be kind online?' 'What can you do if you see something you don't like?'. Advice suggests that online abuse should be blocked and reported to the managing platform. Monitoring the social media platforms of the child to ensure they are only using age appropriate apps.

ReThink

ReThink is an app which can detect potentially offensive and hurtful content before it is posted to allow the user to reconsider the message.



BeReal. AGE RATING 13+

BeReal is a social media app which allows users to see and share the day-to-day moments, without editing or filters. Notifications can appear at a random time and users are given 2 minutes to take a photo which is subsequently shared to followers.

Users are able to connect with strangers as the image is shared with anyone in the phone's contact list who also has the app. Users are able to invite people from their contacts and give them the opportunity to add them as friends. This means that users can potentially connect and share their images with strangers.

Due to the app being public it means unfortunately a lack of moderation of the content meaning there could be posts unsuitable for children. Instead, BeReal suggests that individuals turn off notifications as it will mean a user is significantly less likely to open the app due to reduced number of upload requests and comments. Parents are recommended to consider the friends that they have on the app as personal information such as location, school uniform, street name etc.. Maybe shared in the post. Posted content should be monitored by adults and discussions are encouraged to ensure that parents are aware of anyone making them feel uncomfortable. Instead reaching out to a trusted adult

Creating a safe profile using an avatar as their profile picture and a nickname means that they have not shared any personal information. Turning off the geolocation feature allows for locations not to be tracked.