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**Safeguarding Newsletter – May 2021**

West Midlands Police has shared some concerning information with us which I feel is important to share with you as parents and carers.

A website promoting **Roro Chan Challenge** has been circulating locally and shared via WhatsApp, Pinterest and possibly Tik Tok.

Roro Chan Challenge is supportive of self-harm and encourages people to take their own lives and a child in the West Midlands recently committed suicide after accessing this site.  Please be alert to the nature and risks of this site and talk to your child/children who may be accessing it.



**Exploitation** can happen anywhere, to any child. The [British Transport Police](https://www.facebook.com/britishtransportpolice/)and [National Crime Agency](https://www.facebook.com/NCA/)are working with [The Children's Society](https://www.facebook.com/childrenssociety/) who are asking the public to #LookCloser to help spot exploitation and abuse.

Know what signs to look for and how to report concerns.

<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/child-criminal-exploitation-and-county-lines/spotting-signs>

**Internet Safety**

It can be difficult to know how to start talking to your child about what they’re doing online or who they might be speaking to. But talking regularly, like you would about their day at school, will help your child feel relaxed and mean that when they do have any worries, they’re more likely to come and speak to you.

It can help to:

•ask your child to show you what they enjoy doing online or apps they’re using so you can understand them.

•be positive but also open about anything you're worried about. You could say "I think this site's really good" or "I'm a little worried about things I've seen here."

•ask them if they're worried about anything, and let them know they can come to you.

•ask them about their friends online and how they know they are who they say they are.

•listen for the reasons why your child wants to use apps or site you don't think are suitable, so you can talk about these together.

•ask your child what they think's okay for children of different ages so they feel involved in the decision making.

For more information on how to keep your child safe online, follow this link: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

Child Line for children and young people

0800 1111

NSPCC Helpline for adults concerned about a child

0808 800 5000

**APPS PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT**

**WHATSAPP**

Whatsapp is a popular messaging app that allows users to send texts, photos, make calls and video chat worldwide. Whatsapp uses an internet connection on smart phones and computers.

**TIK TOK**

Tik Tok is a mobile device app that is popular with children used for creating and sharing videos. With very limited privacy controls, users are vulnerable to bullying and explicit content.

**KIK**

Kik allows anyone to contact and direct message your child. Children can bypass traditional text messaging features. Kik gives users unlimited access to anyone, anywhere, anytime.

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Did you know that these apps all come with a minimum age restriction which means children under this age, should not use them?

* Facebook – **13** years or older
* Tik Tok – **13** years or older
* Snapchat – **13** years or older
* ASK.FM – **13** years or older
* Whisper – **17** years or older
* Whatsapp – **16** years or older

ASK.FM

ASK.FM is known for cyber bullying. The app encourages users to allow anonymous people to ask them questions.

**WHISPER**

Whisper is an anonymous social network that promotes sharing secrets with strangers. It also reveals a user’s location so people can meet up.

**SNAPCHAT**

Snapchat is one of the most popular apps in recent years. While the app promises users can take a photo/video and it will disappear, new features including stories’ allow users to view content for up to 24 hours.