



Moorside Primary Academy

Market Street, Droylsden, Manchester M43 7DA

Tel: 0161 370 3614 Fax: 0161 301 1099

e-mail: admin@moorside-primary.org

website: www.moorside-primary.net



Principal: Mr. P. Dickson

Assistant Vice-Principal: Mrs. K. Rosenbloom

Chair of Governors: Mr P. Egerton

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Live Streaming – Information for Parents and Carers

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following this morning's news relating to the dangers of live streaming we have provided information you should find useful.

Live in 3...2...1

Live streaming, sometimes known as "going live", is the broadcasting of live videos over the internet. Videos are unedited and are viewed in real time- similar to Live TV. (Please visit our Internet Safety page for age appropriateness guidance).

If your child has access to the internet we recommend you have a discussion with them on the dangers of using these sites. Examples of such sites are:



Periscope



Liv.me



YouNow



live.ly

Why do people live stream?

Sharing videos instantly can feel exciting. Some people use live streaming as a way to showcase their talents, campaign about an issue or to spontaneously share their thoughts with an audience.

Watching live videos?

The clue is in the name – live streaming is live, which means there is no opportunity to edit or think critically about the content before it's posted online. Anyone with a camera-enabled device and access to the internet can create and share a live video. This can make live videos unpredictable and very difficult to moderate. Therefore, it's possible for young people to see inappropriate content that could shock or upset them - even if they didn't initially set out to watch that type of video.

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Thinking about live streaming?

Whilst live streaming can be fun, it's important to affirm to young people that live videos posted on the internet can remain there forever. They can be recorded, screen shot and shared without permission. Encourage young people to think carefully about what they choose to stream if they decide to go live. When something is live, young people can be more susceptible to acting on impulse- doing something 'in the moment' they might later regret.

Some apps allow viewers to comment on a live video as it is broadcast. Often, the person in the video can read the comments as they are live streaming and can feel a pressure to respond to comments as they are aware they are being watched.

Be Aware!

Adult offenders sometimes use tricks and dares to coerce young people into performing acts that involve nudity on camera; sometimes offering them online gifts or 'game points' in exchange for videos. Younger children can be particularly susceptible to these tactics as it can be difficult for them to spot manipulative behaviour in others and stand up to pressure. It is important to remind young people that if someone asks them to remove clothing or do anything sexual, stop and tell someone. No matter who instigated the conversation or what's been said, it is never the young person's fault.

Please encourage them to tell an adult and report to CEOP immediately.

We trust the above proves useful. Further links to information are also provided on the school website.

Yours sincerely

Mr P. Coen
ICT Manager

