



Online Safety Bulletin

Online Safety Alphabet

• O - Omegle

An anonymous chat room which is often used inappropriately by younger people, putting them at risk.

• P - Phishing

Attempting to acquire sensitive information (usernames, passwords) by pretending to be a trustworthy figure.

Did you know?

1 in 4 young people have come across racist or hate speech messages online.



In the news this month

Teachers' online security skills to be reviewed

By Henry Hepburn, 14 June 2018, TES Online

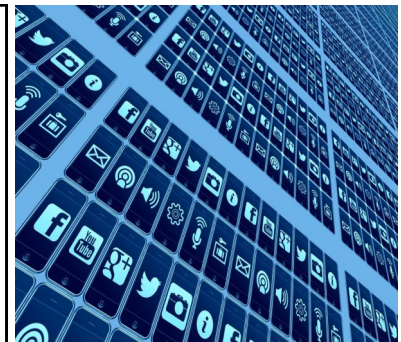
Teachers' social media skills are to be scrutinised after access to a popular online education network was blocked following the posting of offensive material. The Courier newspaper last week reported having seen offensive material, including reference to the sale of drugs, which could be read by pupils using Yammer.

The misuse of Yammer was raised at First Minister's Questions today in the Scottish Parliament, where Nicola Sturgeon said: "as a precaution, access to Yammer was removed on Friday 8 June", to allow curriculum and inspection body Education Scotland to carry out "a full review". Access has not yet been restored.

However, Conservative MSP Alexander Stewart said that teachers had raised concerns over 18 months ago. He added that "the warnings were not listened to".

Ms Sturgeon said: "The issue first came to my attention, if memory serves me correctly, last Thursday, when a parent emailed me. The system was taken down on Friday while the concerns were fully investigated. On the oversight of this and the review, Education Scotland is responsible.

She added: "This is a serious issue and it is important that a proper review takes place. We know that there are educational benefits to giving young people access to such systems, but we must absolutely make sure that safety is a priority, and that is what we will continue to do."



SNP MSP Gillian Martin about 46 per cent of children who use various social media apps and online platforms have their settings at "public", meaning that "anyone can see their content and contact them".

In response, Ms Sturgeon said: "On balance, the internet and social media are forces for good – they open a world to children that they may not otherwise be able to experience. However, they potentially give access to those who would want to do harm to children, so we must ensure that safety is the absolute priority."

Earlier this week, Tes reported concerns that social media will be "catastrophic" for many teachers unless more is done to stop "bullying" by parents who monitor schools using new technology.

Tip of the Month

Danger Signs (that you could be communicating with someone who are not what they seem ...)

- They insist on having your address or phone number
- They want to keep their chats with you secret
- They want to meet you, but tell you to keep it secret
- They send you pictures that make you feel uncomfortable.
- They ask for pictures of you.

