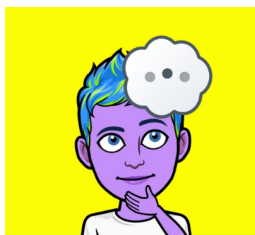


# TG SAFEGUARDING

## NEWSLETTER



MAY 2023



### Snapchat - AI Chatbot

Artificial Intelligence has been around for years, but in the last 6 months or so it has taken on a whole new dimension. Everyone is talking about ChatGPT, but that's one very small example compared to what is out there now. Imagine this: get ChatGPT to create a storyline script based on a character - create the visual character in OpenAI - input the visual character into one of the Video AI platforms along with the script. You've just created a whole video with a semi-lifelike character in 30 minutes or less. It's extraordinary, exciting, but concerning at the same time.

All the big companies are either implementing or starting to implement AI into their services now, and this includes Snapchat who a fortnight ago introduced their AI Chatbot. For companies, this is all about engagement, in other words keeping people in the app. However, as much as AI can be used for good, there is always a negative side too with the bot responding and giving wholly inappropriate advice to questions that are being asked, even when you tell the bot how old you are. To combat this Snap have stated that they will introduce filters and Family Center parental controls to help. In other words, once again, safety is an afterthought.

AI is here now and it is here to stay, it is growing very quickly, faster than I have ever seen before, so this is an area that we need to start discussing with children and young people, both the positives and the negatives. To read a little more about the AI chatbot on Snapchat see [HERE](#).

There is also a helpful guide here :

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/what-do-i-need-to-know-about-chatgpt-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers/>



### Parasocial Relationships

Have you ever wondered why some people are easily influenced by others online, particularly if they are 'big names'? There are many reasons, one of which is parasocial relationships.

This theory has been around for a very long time, but fast-forward to the days of YouTube and social media it has taken on a whole new dimension. From the perspective of a viewer, an influencer isn't talking to thousand or millions of people, they are talking directly to the viewer, and this can create a one-sided relationship to the point where some people will believe they know this person, they are their friend. It's a fascinating area and one which could be an interesting topic of discussion with students. To see a more in-dpeth (non-scientific) explanation have a read of [THIS](#) article.

**Parent Awareness** – be careful of sites where your children can speak to people they don't really know – given what we now know about parasocial relationships – it's important to keep the line of discussion open about who we really know and who we should be talking to.

## **Omegle Guidance - Internet Matters**

Omegle has been a headache for those concerned with protecting children for a decade and a half. On first glance the site is a simple internet chatroom, reminiscent of platforms from the internet's early years. It has no registration or account system. Being designed with the originally innocent objective of getting strangers to talk to each other, but this allows under-18s to easily use the platform, without needing parental assistance, money or even an email address. This already creates a dangerous situation to young pupils, but its insistence on users needing a webcam to chat places anyone underage in an extremely vulnerable place. To find out more about Omegle and the risks it poses, please follow the links below:

**Internet Matters:** <https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/what-is-omegle-what-parents-need-to-know/>

**Childnet:** <https://www.childnet.com/blog/what-is-omegle-key-things-parents-and-carers-need-to-know/>

**Money Muling :**  
<https://www.barclays.co.uk/fraud-and-scams/money-mule-scams/>