

Digital Awareness 2020

WhatsApp launches new disappearing messages option



During November, WhatsApp will be rolling out 'disappearing messages' functionality. The feature will allow WhatsApp users to enable disappearing messages on chat conversations between friends, to automatically delete messages after seven days. Wiping will also apply to videos and photos.

Whilst WhatsApp's minimum user age is 16, many children and young people have accounts. Auto-deleting entries could increase the risk to younger users as evidence of any issues may not be available.

Please be aware of this and discuss with your son/daughter about the implications of this.



Omegle is a website that children can text or video chat with complete strangers without the need to register. The service randomly pairs users in one-to one chat sessions where they can chat anonymously.

There have been a couple of incidents recently where students have tried to access this as a result of it being marketed in TikTok.

There have been many concerns about this app/website for the past decade. It is not monitored and so discussions and video can be about and include anything.

Please discuss the use of the app/website with your son/daughter and discourage them from using it by highlighting the issues that surrounds the use of it:

- Contact with people they do not know
- Inappropriate material (text and images)
- Lose inhibitions and divulge personal information

We usually suggest discussions about the use of such apps and websites, but unfortunately there is nothing positive about this particular one.



Talking about online safety to your son/daughter

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

Know how to report unwanted contact

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

If you have any concerns regarding Internet Safety please speak to your child's Pastoral Support Manager, Head of year or a member of the Safeguarding Team