



Digital Bulletin – Live Streaming

During this period of online learning, students will be exploring more online content than they would have had they been in school throughout the week. However, it is worth looking at live streaming and the potential hazards involved.

What is live streaming?

Live streaming is the term used to describe the broadcast of real time video. It can be used to showcase talent, advertise/sell products, share thoughts/opinions or watch concerts, celebrities or bloggers. Most video streaming apps have an [age restriction of 13](#); however, as there are few checks, anyone can register.

What is the risk?

Most live streaming apps will have filters, rules and guidelines in place to ensure their services are monitored. They will also have report buttons where inappropriate content will be sent for review. However, due to the live nature, this will not necessarily be instant. This means that your child can easily be exposed to age inappropriate material. It is also a good idea to see if the app has the capacity to record live streaming. Users may believe that they have said or done something that will be forgotten, not knowing that other users may have captured this on their device. Again, due to the live nature of this form of streaming, there is more chance that something is said in this form, that would not have happened with more thought beforehand.

Talk with your children

We always recommend regular, open conversations about internet usage with children. Who are they talking to, which apps/sites are they using? Talk about the dangers of giving out personal details and discuss privacy settings (for information on Snapchat Privacy settings, click [here](#)). At school, we also talk to students about the potential risk of their online content to their future. What is their digital footprint? What would a potential university or employer see if they googled your name? Finally, in addition to talking about which apps your son or daughter is using, it would be worth asking if there are any other connected apps. For example, is a live streaming app with no facility to record content connected to one that does?

Houseparty

Houseparty is a popular app among teenagers, with an ability to 'drop in' to a virtual space. However, you should be aware that friends of friends can also gain access, due to the social nature of the app. Again, the key risks are sexualised messages, content being recorded and shared, cyberbullying and also oversharing. There are many benefits to this app, especially now during this time of social distancing; however, students should be aware of the potential risks and the measures to reduce them.

RGS Online Learning

Video streaming can be fantastic, especially during this global pandemic, where face to face contact is so limited. Teachers may set up online video meetings to bring students together and provide a sense of community. At the moment, we will be asking that although students will be able to see the teacher, the students turn their cameras off. There will be audio that everyone in the meeting will be able to hear.

If there are any topics that you would like more information about, or if you have any concerns regarding online safety, please feel free to contact me.