## What is Random Chat?

These sites and apps connect individuals at random, with strangers. These strangers are then able to chat, either by text or webcam. The random element of connecting with someone anywhere in the world is the main appeal of these sites.

This type of site is usually unmoderated and frequently used for chat and actions of a highly inappropriate nature, which can be harmful to young people.

## Useful Websites

Below, you will find a selection of useful websites that provide information for parents, carers and children:

www.thinkuknow.co.uk
www.digizen.org
www.childnet.com
www.ceop.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/ukcis
www.nspcc.org.uk

## Charlestown Safeguarding Team

Mr G Ball is our Safeguarding Lead, with Miss Denham, Mrs Morrison and Mrs Peters, as our Deputy Safeguarding Leads.

## Charlestown eSafety Lead

Mr P Higginbotham

**To speak to one of the team, you can call the school on: 0161 740 3529.**

**Charlestown Community Primary School**

**Aspire Learn Achieve**

# eSafety Information

# Who is my child talking to online?

### Talking to People Online

Young people use the internet to talk to others in a number of different ways: email, IM, DM, Skype, FaceTime, Social Media and more.

The online world provides young people with the opportunity to be inquisitive, explore and actively seek risks, such as talking to strangers. Chatting online feels different to talking to people face-to-face. It can be easier to say and reveal things about yourself and others online than you would in the real world, especially with people that your child does not know.
It is important for young people to remember that offline consequences are still present, with online behaviours.
As a parent/carer, you need to understand the ways people communicate online and the potential risks.

Until your child is responsible and mature enough to manage the risks for themselves, you need to restrict the sites they use and the people they talk to.

Young people need to be aware that they can **block contacts,** with most sites and apps allowing you to stop others communicating with you. They can also **report concerns,** if someone is being inappropriate. If the site does not deal with this, then this can be reported directly to CEOP.

### What is Instant Messaging?

Instant Messaging (IM) or sending a Direct Message (DM), is an instant text chat between two or more people. This tends to be a private, unmoderated chat. You can build a list of 'friends' that you can chat to, who can see when you are online and start conversations with you. It is important to know how to manage this list, for example, blocking undesirable contacts.

### What is SPIM?

SPIM stands for "Spam over Instant Messaging" and refers to unwanted instant messages. SPIM not only disrupts chats, but can contain viruses or spyware. SPIM can be prevented by blocking messages from contacts outside of your 'friends list'. Your ISP can help to prevent Spam and SPIM, using anti-virus protection.

### What is Webcam Chat?

Webcams are still a problem in the modern internet world, as all "Smart Phones" have a camera. Services such as Skype, FaceTime and WhatsApp are very popular and free. This can be a great way for people to chat to each other, but it is important to remember that what appears on the screen can be recorded and shared with other people, possibly in ways you wouldn't want. Young people should be aware of this, and remember that it is **never** a good idea to reveal too much of their body, or their personal information whilst using a webcam site or app.