



Prior Weston Primary School

Safeguarding and Wellbeing Newsletter

05/05/2023



Dear families

Welcome to our latest edition and our focus this week is safeguarding in particular online. Our aim is to bring you all the latest, relevant help and advice on issues that we feel will be of importance to you. In this issue, we talk about the dangers of the latest Online viral challenges, the negative effect that 'influencers' can have on our children and the Online platform Discord is explained in detail. Once again we are concerned with the amount of year 5 & 6 children who are communicating with each other through gaming apps or WhatsApp and ask you to ensure that they are supervised and you know who they are talking to and what they are talking about.



EXPLICIT IMAGES TREND ON TIKTOK



What is this new viral challenge?

There is a very worrying new viral challenge circulating on TikTok using variations of the hashtag **'foopah'**. This is a play on the phrase **'faux pas'** (an embarrassing public act), the trend encourages users to upload 'blink and you'll miss it' nudity. This aims to get around the platform's detection and moderation by being hidden in plain sight. Using screens, mirrors and other reflective surfaces are just some of the ways people have taken part in the challenge.

The content itself ranges from those who are sharing more obvious sexually explicit content to suggestive but subtle imagery of themselves. The trend also creates an allure for young people who are taking to various platforms to 'react' to the challenge or discuss it with others online. The challenge originated from one TikTok user as a way of promoting her Only Fans account. Her initial video, which included the subtle flashing of her breasts gathered 2 million views in 24 hours!

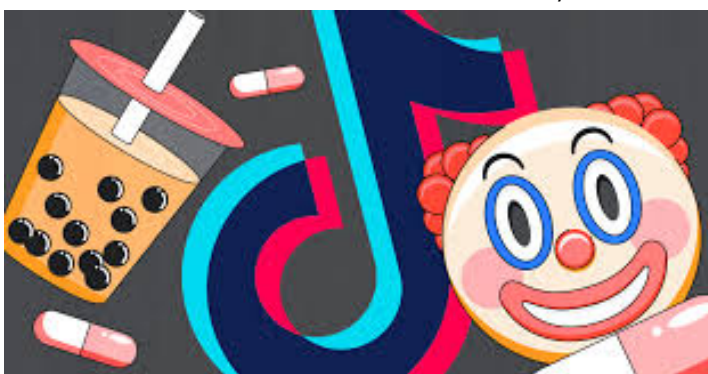
As with most inappropriate or banned hashtags, different variations in spelling tend to appear as the platform detects and removes it, prompting the creation of another, The #foopah hashtag was viewed more than 7 million times, but has since been removed. It was quickly replaced by #foopa which has now over 30 million views.

Clickbait

The content produced by the challenge ranges from subtle to explicit. Those who choose to engage in a more subtle or less inappropriate way, trivialise the risk presented by sharing explicit content in a public space online.

Thrill-seeking behaviours

The nature of this challenge is that it entices users to find new and creative ways of continuing to get around the platform's ability to detect and filter nudity. This can lead to a sense of achievement for successfully avoiding the platform's detection and moderation. For more information/safety advice click below



<https://ineqe.com/2023/02/24/explicit-content-tiktok-trend>

HARMFUL ONLINE CONTENT

We are all to aware of the harmful or abusive behaviours that appear on social media. What can be hard to understand is the presence of popular personalities or influencers who become famous for showing this exact type of behaviour over online platforms. This is even more concerning when children and young people begin to view this harmful online content. There have been reports of children as young as 11 quoting online personality Andrew Tate at school, even resulting in acts of violence towards female peers.

Who is Andrew Tate?

Andrew Tate is an American-British former professional kickboxer turned internet personality. He is a self-described 'success coach' and has a subscription-based online marketing programme called 'Hustler's University' with over 1000,000 subscribers. He has recently hit the headlines adding to his notoriety due to a string of controversial comments and behaviours, such as:

- Claiming mental illness makes people 'weak' and the depression 'isn't real'.
- Promoting gendered violence and misogyny on his podcast and posts about relationships

Despite his social media ban and arrest, incidents involving him in schools have shown a notable increase. This has led to a higher number of referrals being made to "Prevent" and incidents of verbal harassment of female teachers and pupils. Concerns are also growing about his influence on young men towards misogynistic extremism.

WHY ARE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE INTERESTED IN THIS BEHAVIOUR?

- Glamorous lifestyle. Many of the influencers or personalities appear to be living a luxury lifestyle. They seem successful, inspiring and confident in what they believe in.
- Fast fame. The controversial nature of these behaviours seems to automatically propel unknown names into trending hashtags on social media platforms.
- Isolation and loneliness. Children and young people who feel isolated, rejected and ostracised are particularly vulnerable to this type of content.
- Looking for advice. A topic or insecurity that a young person needs help with could inspire them to begin vulnerably searching for an answer on social media.
- Keeping up with peers. Young people may seek out dangerous online personalities such as Andrew Tate to try and appear 'informed' amongst friends or older siblings.

POTENTIAL RISKS

- Replicating or engaging in the behaviour in order to 'fit in' with peers.
- Low self-esteem when comparing themselves to 'successful' personalities.
- Being the victim or perpetrator of cyberbullying.
- Having an emotional reaction to harmful content online.
- Damage to their reputation that could impact relationships and future plans.
- Views and beliefs being negatively influenced or 'nudged' in the wrong direction.

For more information please follow link <https://ineqe.com/2023/03/23/harmful-content-online-safety->

WhatsApp Aware please be aware!

Recently there have been several incidents related to the misuse of WhatsApp groups with KS2 children. We would like to remind parents and children that **the minimum age for using WhatsApp is 16 or over.**

WhatsApp is a chat application which can be used on a mobile phone or tablet, it lets you send messages, images and videos to friends. You can have one to one and group conversations.

We urge all parents to keep an eye on their child's mobile phone or online activities involving social media. The children are constantly reminded that they must tell a parent / adult if they receive anything inappropriate from any application.

As a school we strongly advise you to remove the chat groups involving other children as this can cause issues in and outside of school. We are aware that particular children are left unsupervised and are being inappropriate with others online