

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Most parents are unaware of what messages their children are receiving or sending on SnapChat in particular. For many children they state this is their favourite means of communicating with one another. No adult supervision is very worrying not alone for the risk of sexually inappropriate messages they may be exposed too or become involved with. But the use of sense of humour can often be used, to the detriment of other more vulnerable children. Also, many students state their infatuation with taking selfies. A parent seeing an eight, nine or ten year old taking selfies may seem harmless. However, my concern is that for some children they become over concerned with their appearance and the adoration and approval of others. Parents are not sufficiently informed. One simple example, is many children say they take up to 20 or more photos of themselves before they are happy with their choice. They are also using flitters. Their self image is developing and I believe it is important to inform parents of the health warnings involved.

[REDACTED]

You asked at what age of consent did I recommend and as I stated I believe we have to be realistic. Children and young people love technology. But there are significant consequences to the misuse (sexting etc) and it leaves young people's self autonomy and value system open to the manipulation by people such as advertisers and large media companies whose only interest is profit. New social norms are emerging.

I'll finish with an example I give to parents when I'm speaking with them about the access and use of iPads or iPhones within the home. I would explain that when I was young when my mum said it was time to come in, from outside with my friends maybe 8 or 9 o'clock. Once I was in she knew where I was. But in today's society, parents can be sitting in the living room with their child across the room, on their iPad or iPhone. It might all look cosy, the fire might be on and an occasional conversation may occur between one another. However, with the new technologies a young person can be seeing images their parents would be horrified off, communicating with people that are not

who they say they are or being harassed by school friends who think its ok because it's 'just a laugh'. Yet the parent feels safe, their child is sitting across the room, It's world's apart from when they were young. Children tell me that their parents don't know all that goes on via their mobile devices, it's almost a secret world. If they tell the fear I'm sure is the device will be taken away and they will be cut off from their peers and their world.

I have suggested to parents with younger children who are under pressure to by the pre-teens an iPhone/iPad to meet them half way - to buy a basic phone that they can use to text and phone (such as, Samsung 1200). The take up for this suggestion would be enhanced if there was a Government Health Warning in my opinion.

This is such a large and complex topic. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

Status Information
