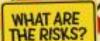
What Parents & Carers Need to Know about



In October 2022, the enormously popular social media network (witter was purchased by tech tycoor Elon Musik That sparked a host of changes to the platform — not all which have been received positively, by its fans. The alterations have continued with each passing month, many of them raising anline safety concerns among the 530 million users of Twitter (now rebranded as simply X). With further adjustments reportedly in the pipeline, X has attracted more than its usual share of controversy and caution in recent times.



A BLOCK ON BLOCKING

K has announced plans to remove its blocking feature. Previously, this stopped other users from viewing your profile or sending you direct masages, while also hiding their posts from your feed. Only this lotter function will now remain. The decision has been criticised by some members, who feel that blocking (in its current form) protects them from X users who promote denial and hatred.



coffers a premium membership, it offers a premium membership as sontrolling who can view and reply town posts) increasingly being made exclusive to those who pay the ubscription fee. Several commentators have speculated that could not day become an orclusively paid-for service, with races to accounts being revoked or anyone unwilling or unable to ake out a subscription.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE

Many of X's less age-appropriate posts can leafure anything from extreme political views to pernography. While accounts marked as 18 * are restricted from non-members, it's still fairly easy to stumble across this material accidentally. X's new "For You" page also shows content from accounts that a user doesn't already follow -meaning that almost anything could send up on a child's feed.

VERIFICATION FOR SALE

istorically, Twitter's mederators promised account verification: lerthying someone as authentic by ilocing a blue tick next to their isomome. One of X's earliest hanges was to place verification remind a paywall. this caused the number of celebrity impersonators a rise and left no way to distinguish, ay, a legitimate influences from a cepyout fake account seeking to exploit other users.



Advice for Parents & Carers

PROTECT PRIVACY

Unsavoury characters may by to gain access to a young person's X account — either to view their pasts and gather information on them, or to completely take control of it. To minimise risk, ensure the account has a strong password and enable the Protect Your Pasts' feature (via the account settings), so that strangers can't view your child's pasts without first being approved as a follower.

DON'T RISE TO THE BAIT

To gain more views and followers, some X users post deliberately inflammatory comments on sensitive topics such as race, sexual orientation and gender issues. Many young people could find this upsetting. Emphasise that, if your child excounters someone spreading hate on X, it's best not to give that person what they want on angument, ignore

STAY ALERT FOR IMPOSTERS

Make sure your child understands that X's blue ticks no longer guarantee the identity of anyone on the platform. While it might be exciting if a celebrity ideal your child's past, it could just as easily be an impacte with malicious intentions. If your child's not 100% sure that an X user actually is who they claim to be, advise them to err on the side of caution and avoid interaction with that account.

ONLY FOLLOW TRUSTED ACCOUNTS

Using the Following' tab on X helps to ensure that the only content your child sees has come from accounts they've chosen to follow: this should reduce the chance of them inadvertently being exposed to harmful, violent or explicit content. Show your child how to report another user's account if, say, they're behaving inappropriately by spreading misinformation or affernive conjuges.



BE READY TO TAKE ACTION

If your child suffers harassment on the platform or becomes the target of a hack, you could consider deactivating their account entirely. Recently, X's safety features have been criticized for allegedly falling to protect users' wellbeing - so if your child is being subjected to abusive messages or similar mistreatment on the platform, it might be prudent to remove them from X allogather.

Meet Our Expert

Usyd coombes a Salta in Charl of gaming and exports the 964 year und her scored in the gaming media for present her years. Weaps enger to fast out the latter apps, games and useles the east, has also a parent who understants the importance of orders salety. Withing many about nothers for the last finess, this orticle have been published an influential also including list and lack frozen.





National Online Safety #WakeUpWednesday



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