

What you need to know about AI Virtual Friends

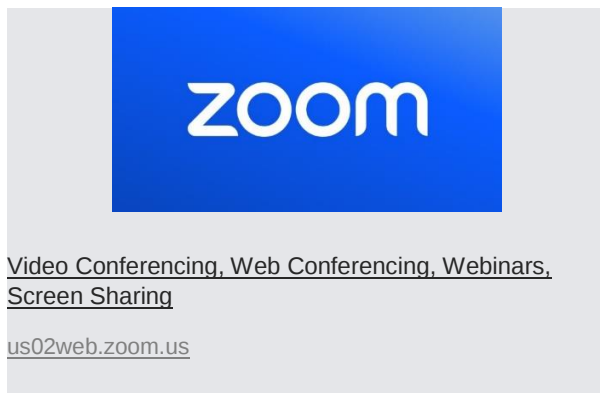
Online Safety – everyone's responsibility

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is probably the hot topic in technology circles right now, with questions being raised worldwide about how AI might conceivably affect the very future of the human race. In the short term, according to the National College Online Safety team, the clearest risk is almost certainly the AI-powered '*virtual friends*' which are springing up all over the internet.

There's Replika and Kuki, while Snapchat has recently joined with '*My AI*', and search engines like Bing and Google have developed their own versions. Are these machine intelligences suitable online companions for our children? What are their limitations and weak spots? The guide below profiles the emergence of AI '*virtual friends*'.

There are some concerns about chatbots not always being able to recognise when content is age appropriate or harmful, some may reduce social contact, there is a lack of sensitivity, there is unintentional bias, cognitive limitations and concerns regarding privacy. There is some really good advice for parents and carers. Please take a look at what your responsibility as a parent/carer is.

Thank you to all the parents that have watched the online safety webinar. There is still some time to watch it before the link is no longer valid. Please take the time for your child.



Working together to keep our children safe and happy.