



Tuesday 31st March 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Safeguarding alert – House Party App

The House Party App is becoming increasingly popular in order to communicate during these unprecedented times. However, the Education Safeguarding Team have had numerous queries and safeguarding concerns raised about an APP called House Party in respect to live streaming.

Over the last 48 hours there has been lots of misinformation over social media about it. As with all live-streaming platforms, screenshots, unsolicited messages and self-generated imagery can put young people at risk.

The following has been shared by the Safeguarding team as potential risks for young people using the APP:

- Links to 'rooms' can be shared publicly – to other platforms which could see uninvited users joining.
- 'Rooms' should be locked to prevent uninvited guests from joining – remember all rooms will lock by default if a user enables 'private mode'.
- If an uninvited guest joins a room they can easily 'friend' others taking part in the live stream.
- It appears that when a friend is invited, their friends can also join a 'room' without the invitation. Therefore, potentially increase the opportunity to cyber-bully and troll others.

Please remain vigilant and safe at home, as I know many households will be using platforms such as House Party to keep in contact with family and friends.

More information can be found within this blog online:

<https://www.ineqe.com/2020/03/30/houseparty-how-safe-is-the-app-taking-the-uk-by-storm/>

Best wishes,

Corrina Blackmore

(Assistant Head teacher & Designated Safeguarding Lead)

