

MGL

ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER

DON'T SPAM! – RESPECTING OTHER PEOPLE'S TIME AND ATTENTION ONLINE

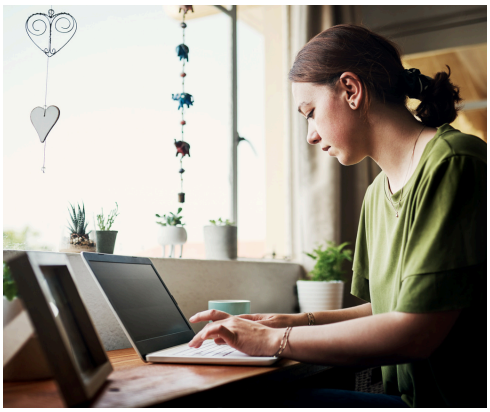
ISSUE 33

SPAMMING

Spamming is the practice of sending a large amount of messages, images, GIFs or other content in bulk, within a very short amount of time. It is considered an annoyance to those online, as it often causes a large amount of notifications, a large amount of information in a chat, or overwhelming distracting for some people, particularly those who may be sensitive to frequent notifications.

People often spam because they want to seek attention from those they are speaking to. Children may misunderstand whether they are 'being ignored' and spam to encourage a response.





"WHY AREN'T THEY REPLYING?"

Children can struggle to read signs in facial expressions and tone, it can be a difficult social skill to master, this is even harder when speaking online. We've mentioned in previous issues about tone and conveying feeling, it is hard for children to grasp this through a message. Children can see that not immediately getting a response to a message is a sign they are being ignored by the other person, which can frustrate them. They solve this by spamming or purposely 'being annoying' to get a response, but they should think about space and manners, the other person may have a reason for not responding.

HELPING YOUR CHILD

If your child struggles to understand why someone isn't replying to them, try talking to them about the following:

- Explain that people aren't always available to reply immediately.
- Encourage them to wait patiently rather than repeatedly sending messages.
- Talk about how receiving lots of notifications might make someone else feel.
- Remind children that being ignored isn't necessarily the reason someone hasn't replied.