Westminster Education Forum & Westminster eForum policy conference:
Next steps for children's online safety in the UK - regulation and legislation, social media usage, and priorities for education settings
Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 28th April 2026
*****Taking Place Online*****

Draft agenda subject to change

8.30 Registration

9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

9.05 **'Privacy by default: protecting children in a data-driven world'**
Emily Keaney, Deputy Commissioner, Regulatory Policy, Information Commissioner's Office
Questions and comments from the floor

9. 30 **Social media use for children and young people - safeguarding, enforcement, and system alignment**
consultation on children's digital wellbeing | implications for digital rights and access to age-appropriate educational content | age verification and age assurance models | enforcement across jurisdictions and platforms | platform accountability | options for compliance and sanctions | supporting schools to embed digital literacy | alignment with wider safeguarding frameworks, including Keeping Children Safe in Education | lessons from international jurisdictions such as Australia, and practicalities | risk displacement to unregulated or informal online spaces | emerging technologies such as infinite-scroll features and AI chatbots
Katie Freeman-Tayler, Head, Research and Policy, Internet Matters
Tristan Lockwood, Special Counsel, Cooley
Senior representative, school
Senior representative, social media platform
Questions and comments from the floor

10.15 **International approaches to social media restrictions - impact, implementation, and lessons for the UK**
Senior representative, international policy
Questions and comments from the floor

10.35 **Regulation, inspection, and accountability - supporting schools to implement online safety policy**
Senior representative, regulation

10.45 **Mobile phone policies in schools - enforcement, wellbeing, and classroom culture**
regulating mobile phone use in schools | impact on pupil wellbeing, behaviour and attainment | exposure to harmful and illegal content | consistency of enforcement across the system | practical implementation challenges for school leaders | expectations for phone-free school days under updated guidance | balancing restriction with digital literacy and resilience-building | expectations under inspection and safeguarding frameworks
Ellie Colegate, Assistant Professor, School of Law, University of Nottingham
Kirsty Rogers, Headteacher, Aureas School, Oxfordshire
Senior representative, union
Senior representative, local authority

11.05 Questions and comments from the floor

11.30 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

11.35 Break

11.45 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

11.50 **Platform responsibilities and codes of practice for supporting online safety**
Senior representative, online platform

12.00 **Next steps for *Online Safety Act 2023* implementation - accountability, codes of practice, and early enforcement priorities**
escalation thresholds and sanctions | practical challenges of age assurance and verifying user identity | responding to harmful, illegal, and emerging digital risks, including AI-generated content | ensuring alignment with DfE guidance and wider statutory safeguarding duties | protecting freedom of expression while reducing online harm | cross-sector coordination between schools, local authorities, tech platforms, and safeguarding partners | strategies for mitigating circumvention through VPNs and proxy services | sequencing and interaction of new regulatory requirements as implementation progresses | compliance, evidencing impact, and supporting consistent operational implementation across settings | resourcing and capacity considerations | balancing enforcement with digital literacy and safe access to educational content
Joanna Conway, Partner, Digital Regulation, Deloitte
Maeve Walsh, Director, Online Safety Act Network
Senior representative, school
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, parent group

12.25 Questions and comments from the floor

12.50 **Next steps for implementation of the *Online Safety Act* - identifying harmful content, platform accountability, and regulatory priorities**
Almudena Lara, Policy Director, Child Safety, Ofcom
Questions and comments from the floor

13.15 **Chair's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Education Forum