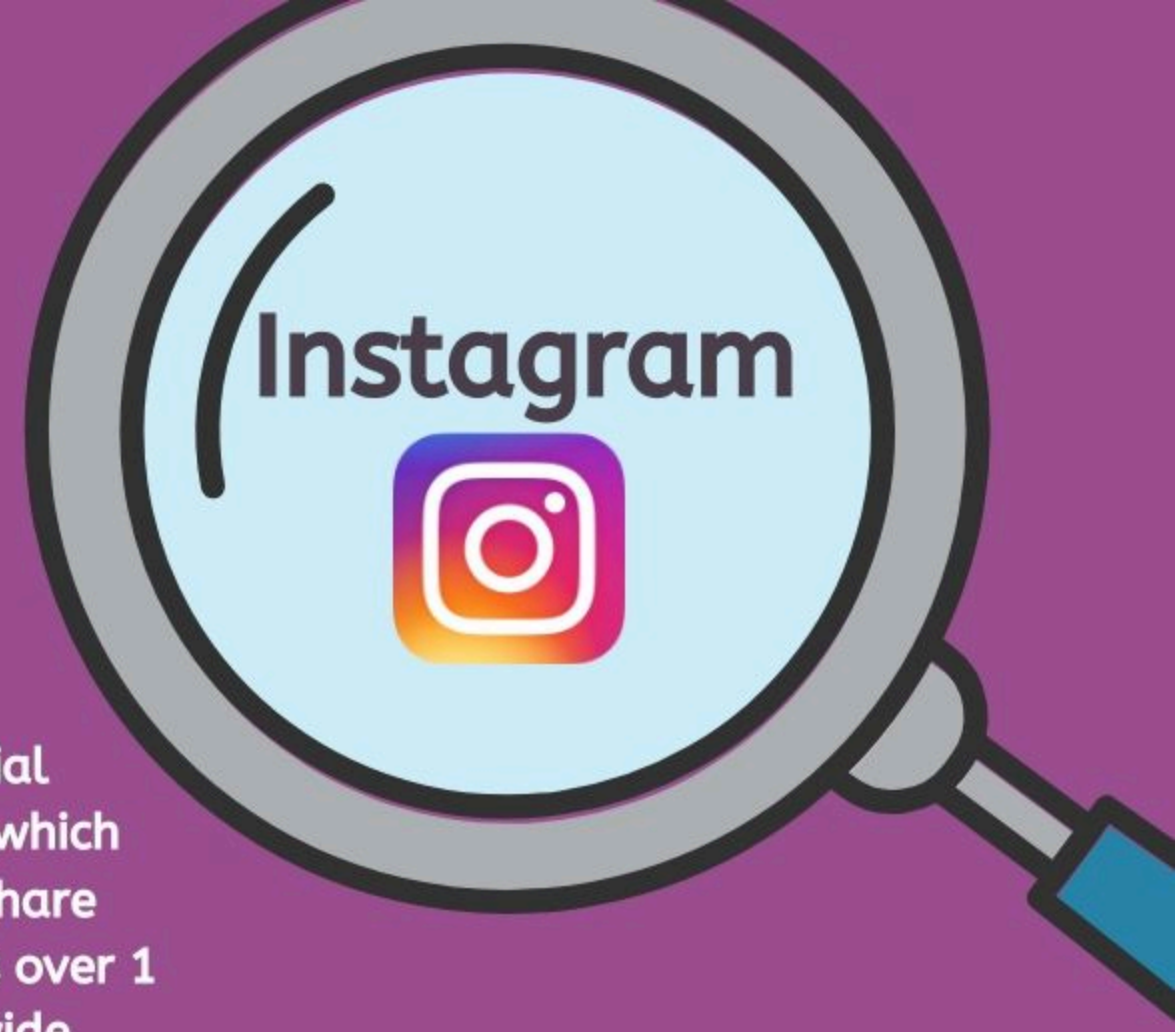# ECP
Education Child Protection

Focus on...
Instagram

AGE 13+

Instagram is a social networking platform which allows for users to share photos or videos. It has over 1 billion users worldwide

Hashtags are commonly used as a way of promoting a post to others - often for marketing purposes

LIVE There is the option to live stream videos to share with others - with any live streaming there is always the potential for things to go wrong

Users can share your location on any post or story - so that others may be able to see or track exactly where you are streaming from

Filters can be added to photos and videos to alter appearance - this can have a detrimental impact on body image

There is a culture of young people aspiring to become a social media 'influencer'. Influencer's are paid money to post particular promotional messages

Users can communicate privately, including in a group - this may lead to exposure to abusive or inappropriate images/ communication

Advice for keeping children & young people safe

Have a conversation about body image & how images, slogans, or attitudes online may make them feel bad about themselves or their body. Remind them that images may have been edited by Photoshop

If they receive a message from someone they do not know - they are unable to view it unless they 'accept' the senders request - encourage them not to accept & report any messages that are deemed abusive

There is the option to purchase products advertised, directly through Instagram - Check that no cards are registered to the account to avoid unwanted spending - this can be done in the settings

Turn on - Instagram's 'anti-bullying' filter in the app settings - this filters negative and abuse comments and hides them from the person posting - this also flags comments directly for Instagram to monitor

Check that 'Location sharing' is turned off in settings. Also ensure that they consider their environment when posting any image or streaming any video as personal information may be shared in the background

Ensure that 'sharing' is turned off in settings - although this will not prevent anyone can view it and take a screenshot - only people who have been approved by the user would be able to forward the image/video on to others

The account should be under a pseudonym rather than using a real name - all other personal information should not be shared either

By default, any image or video posted is viable by anyone on Instagram - by setting the account to 'Private' only people who have been approved by the user would be able to forward the image/video on to others

As with any 'app', communication platform or online game....

Take time to check it out for yourself and always promote yourself as a source of support and someone to talk to if your child has any concerns