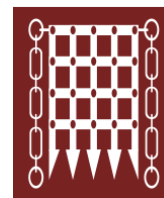


**Westminster Education Forum & Westminster eForum policy conference:
Next steps for children's online safety in the UK - regulation and legislation, social media usage, and
priorities for education settings**

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 | emerging findings from pilot schemes | 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-Taylor, Head, Research and Policy, Internet Matters
Tristan Lockwood, Special Counsel, Cooley
Chris Tooley, Principal, The Netherhall School and Oakes College, Cambridge
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**
Owen Bennett, Independent Expert, European and International Digital Policy; and former Head, International Online Safety, Ofcom
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
Sarah Cull, Principal Official, Education, NASUWT
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
Megan Rose, Chief of Staff, Parent Zone
Ann-Marie Matson, Director, Children's Services, North East Lincolnshire Council
Senior representative, school
- 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