# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about BUESKYSOX

**WHAT ARE** THE RISKS?

While Bluesky has been around since 2019, it's suddenly taken off in a big way thanks to a significant exodus from X (formerly Twitter). Indeed, it looks and behaves a lot like Twitter before Elon Musk bought the platform. Bluesky has been touted in recent months as a safer, more open-minded alternative to X – but like any social media site, it still has its share of risks.

### **NO PRIVATE ACCOUNTS**

While most social networks allow write most social networks allow accounts to be private, at the time of writing, all Bluesky accounts must be public. The development team has indicated this might change in the future, but the app is built on a public-first protocol. If private accounts are ever introduced, it may only be in a limited way – such as through implementation of group chats.

### INTERACTIONS WITH **STRANGERS**

Every account being public means that anyone can be contacted by anyone else. While users don't have to respond and can easily block people and move on, it does mean that youngsters are at particular risk of being conned by scammers, messaged by predatory adults or exposed to others with ill intentions. that Bluesky doesn't require its users to provide

### TROLLING AND

X seems to have become, its lack of private accounts means that there's nothing to stop users from trolling and cyberbullying younger people. While accounts can be blocked and reported, a persistent bully could simply create a new profile, potentially making their victims feel unsafe in continuing to use the app.

# **DANGEROUS MISINFORMATION**

fact-checking and editing processes, but social networks have no such controls and

## ADULT TARGET AUDIENCE



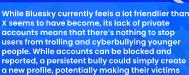
and there aren't many parental controls on the platform. In an interview with the BBC, Bluesky's spokespers age 18 and above to sign up, but a spokesperson later clarified its age restriction as 13+. This could imply the app was originally meant for an adult audience and suggests that making the platform more child-friendly might

### RAPID GROWTH



At the time of writing, Bluesky seems calm in comparison with other social networks where moderation is lax and the atmosphere toxic – but that's due at least in

### BULLYING



## Advice for Parents & Educators

### USE THE ADULT CONTENT FILTER

### ENCOURAGE BLOCKING AND REPORTING

and blocking accounts. The former prevents you from seeing a specific user's content, while the latter stops them from seeing yours. If a child is encountering trolls

### LOOK OUT FOR FAKES

#### KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE



As with all social media platforms, moderation and content filters can only do so much important to make sure that young people are aware of the risks and know how to handle the technology if anything they see on the app makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable

### Meet Our Expert

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