



Redditch Rumours

Thursday

16th July 2026

Issue #18

Will the under sixteen social media ban be effective?

The former Prime Minister Kier Starmer recently announced a social media ban for everyone under the age of sixteen beginning in Spring 2027, including apps like Snapchat, X, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, Facebook and some online video games. The scheme is aimed to “give kids their childhood back” and protect young children from harmful features, including strangers and endless scrolling. The social media ban is meant to be similar to the one put in place in Australia, however even this caused problems as some people were locked out instantly and others weren’t, allowing them to continue to use social media as normal. The ban shows the government siding with families over tech companies, as 9/10 families back the scheme and 83% believe in the risks prevented. Hopefully the social media ban will help increase the attention spans of children, encourage more play and reduce fake news. Sir Kier Starmer has also said “Parents want to keep their kids safe and happy, but the online world has made that harder than ever.” There have also been talks of overnight curfews, breaks in scrolling and stopping romantic relations with AI for all under eighteens, to stop inappropriate behaviour

online. However, this ban does come with its controversy, with questions of if it will actually work, will the banning of social media make schoolwork more difficult due to certain topics not being able to look at on YouTube Kids and is the age too high as you can get married and join the army at sixteen, but social media can’t be accessed. Therefore, I spoke to some people about how they felt about the ban, a sixth former, a parent and a fifteen-year-old. The sixth former stated the ban could be good for reducing bullying, prevent exposure to violence and increase self-expression by trends not being as popular. On the other hand, making friends and worldwide connections becomes harder, it could increase illegal activity and age fraud, reduce revision resources and it may not completely work. The parent felt it was overall good for younger children’s health, helping them to be more active and present in conversations, but also help with sleep. Although it will come with jealousy of older siblings and fights, increasing the use of illegal websites and some schoolwork may become difficult to access as AI and YouTube is often used.

Continued on page 2.

Finally, the fifteen-year-old was very against the ban saying they needed social media to contact their friends or do revision on but also to learn news stories, they had very few opinions for the ban the only thing being less screen time which could help with better sleep and social skills. Overall, the social media ban for under sixteens has got many mixed opinions, lots of people supporting the ban for the safety and well being of children however the ban comes with many consequences like how it will affect friend making, schoolwork and if it will work in the intended way. This leaves numerous people wondering if the age should be lowered to have a greater effect.

By Lydia Carr

Word of the half-term

Latibulate– to hide or take refuge.

Like we have all been doing from the sun these past few weeks!

Study tip of the term

Use the summer holidays to get yourself equipped for September. Buy multipacks of stationery with your friends, and split them between you, to spread out the cost.



Can you turn the top word into the bottom one by only changing one letter at a time?

Use the prompts to help you think of the next word...

