



EMOJIS WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS: WHAT PARENTS AND EDUCATORS NEED TO KNOW



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Emojis are a universal language in the digital world, used by children and adults alike to express emotions, reactions and humour. However, while most emojis are harmless, some have been repurposed in online communities to convey hidden or even harmful messages. In misogynistic and incel spaces, specific emojis can be used to reinforce harmful ideologies, belittle women or incite harmful behaviour. Other emojis are linked to discussions about drugs, sex or even self-harm. By staying informed, keeping conversations open, and encouraging digital literacy, parents and educators can empower young people to navigate online spaces with confidence and awareness.



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Emojis are very often playful and harmless, but they can also be used as a tool for exclusion, manipulation and the spread of harmful ideologies. It's important for parents and educators to be aware of these alternative meanings – but also to remember that context is everything. Just because a young person uses a 🍌, doesn't necessarily mean they are talking about sex. Similarly, whilst the 🍀 emoji is sometimes used in misogynistic spaces as a demeaning representation of women, its appearance on your child's phone might be entirely innocent – perhaps a reference to Halloween or simply a way of expressing frustration.

It's also important to remember that emojis can be used in culturally specific ways, and what means one thing to one group of people, may mean something entirely different to another.

Just because a child or teen uses a certain emoji does not necessarily mean they are engaging with

harmful ideas and not every use of a 'coded' emoji is sinister. However, if you notice certain emojis being used frequently or in combination, this could suggest a coded message. The key is to approach the issue with curiosity rather than immediate alarm, staying calm, curious and non-judgemental.

This resource provides insights into how certain emojis are currently being used and misused, and what they represent in certain online communities.



Acronyms to be aware of

In addition to the emojis, look out for these acronyms.

CD9 Code 9: Parents are around

POS Parent over shoulder

LMIRL Let's meet in real life






















ASL Age/Sex/Location

DPW D*** Pictures welcome

NP4NP Naked pic for naked pic

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SEX

| | | |
|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |
| Penis | Fingering | Lust |
|  |  |  |
| Penis | Intercourse | Sexual interest |
|  |  |  |
| Penis | Orgasm | Swinging |
|  |  |  |
| Bum | Erection | Sex (hump) |
|  |  |  |
| Genitalia | Orgasm | Porn |
|  |  |  |
| Vagina | Lust | Suggestive content |
|  |  |  |
| Vagina | Lust | Shock or exposure to something explicit |
|  |  | |
| Oral | Porn | |
|  |  | |
| Anal sex | Nudes | |
|  | | |
| Intercourse | | |

DRUGS

| | |
|---|--|
|  |  |
| Cocaine | MDMA |
|  |  |
| Cocaine | MDMA |
|  |  |
| Cocaine | Ketamine |
|  |  |
| Cocaine | Nitrous oxide |
|  |  |
| Cocaine | Gassed or high |
|  |  |
| Marijuana | Drug dealer |
|  |  |
| Marijuana | Drug dealer |
|  |  |
| Marijuana | Vaping or inhalant use |
|  |  |
| Marijuana | Ecstasy or intoxication |
|  | |
| Mushrooms | |

SELF HARM

| |
|---|
|  |
| Cutting |
|  |
| Burning |
|  |
| Feeling low |
|  |
| Not eating |
|  |
| Overwhelm or distress |
|  |
| Extreme hopelessness |











VIOLENCE

| |
|---|
|  |
| Weapon |
|  |
| Weapon |
|  |
| Crime |
|  |
| Murder |
|  |
| Crime |
|  |
| Murder |
|  |
| Threat |
|  |
| Locked up |
|  |
| Snitch |

EXTREMISM

| |
|---|
|  |
| Far right |
|  |
| Neo-Nazi |
|  |
| Neo-Nazi |
| 1488 |
| Neo-Nazi |
|  |
| IS- Extremism |
|  |
| IS- Extremism |
|  |
| Radicalism or extremism |
|  |
| Far right |
|  |
| Extremism |

INCEL

| | |
|---|---|
|  |  |
| Incel | 'Red Pill' thinking |
|  |  |
| Incel | 'Black Pill' belief |
|  |  |
| Incel | Chad – extreme masculinity |
| 700 |  |
| Refers to 80/20 rule | Anti-woman |
|  |  |
| Emotional detachment | Anti-woman |
| |  |
| | Anti-woman |

The emojis associated with misogyny and incels can be considered in conjunction with our [Glossary of Incel Terminology](#). Please note that the content of the glossary is for adult eyes only. It contains offensive and upsetting terminology and concepts.