



Verification Symbols

Across the country, children are using social media younger and younger.

Our primary position on Social Media use is to ask that parents and carers respect age restrictions, and game classifications they are there for a reason, and most apps are 13+.

However, for those that have decided that their child can use apps younger than the recommended age, we need to make sure children are safe and well educated on risks that are easily avoidable.

YouTube, Instagram, Snapchat and Tik Tok are the most popular, with very young children. One of the questions we always should ask children is to tell us how they identify that they are following a real celebrity.

The reason we should ask is that we have seen multiple fake accounts trying to lure young people into following them. In extreme cases, Safe on Social has been told by young people that they have received private messages from celebrities.

Conversations with these “celebrities” often involve asking for inappropriate photographs of the young child (this has been reported to the police immediately in all cases). Please make sure that your children know that a celebrity will not send them a private message. Ever.

Be aware that whenever someone who is hugely popular with young children is touring the country, fake accounts start to appear. For example, if Maddie Ziegler, Ariana Grande, Katy Perry or others are about to visit and we may see fake accounts being set up pretending to be them but there is someone whom you do not want contacting your child hiding behind the fake profile.

Fake accounts will often have a slight typo in the name, usually so minor that a young child will not be able to notice.

You cannot watch 24/7 what your child sees on social media unless you are holding the device and hovering over their shoulder. Even with filtering devices in place, some things slip through. They are never reliable solutions. We support building a relationship based on trust and a good education that you can provide children with knowing the basics.

Our tip is to educate on what a verification symbol is, and why it is essential to understand what they are on each app as they are all different.

Every parent and carer should know how to identify a real celebrity. Most major social media platforms have a verification symbol to prove that it is the real celebrity or organisation. The verification symbol can be trusted as celebrities and influencers go through a rigorous process to be able to use the symbol.

Please check through with children each celebrity account they are following and unfollow the profiles that do not have the following verification symbols in place. It's a good idea to check your own as well.

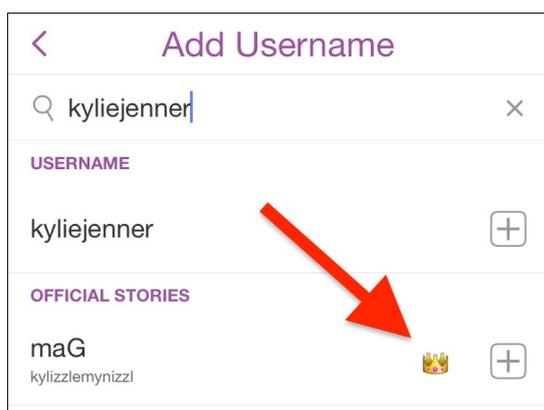
- Facebook has a tick in a circle next to the name of the page.



- Instagram is a blue circle, with a white tick in a circle next to the name of the page.



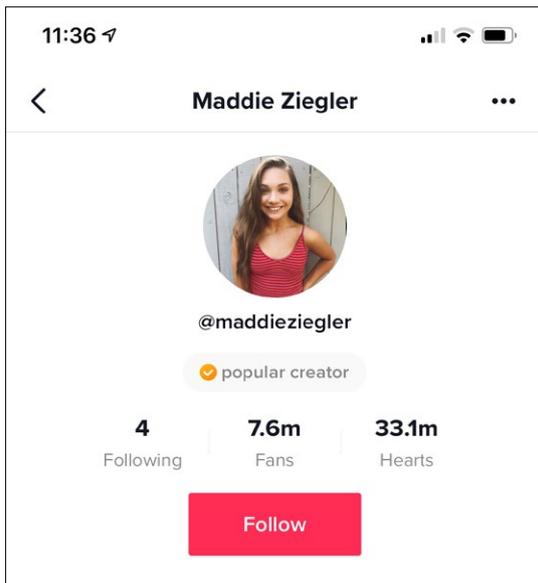
- When you follow a famous person on Snapchat, you'll know they're verified if they have an emoji to the right of their name. And yes, celebrities get to pick their emoji's so they may use a cactus, a camera or something else.



- Twitter has a blue circle with a white tick in it beside the name.



- Tik Tok has a white tick in an orange circle.



- YouTube has a red tick in a white box with a red border.



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