

## Your monthly **Textbook**



### Welcome to your first newsletter of the year!

This month's edition is full of resources to support you through what will undoubtedly be another challenging but successful term.

Read on to discover free webinars – including our upcoming session with Social Media Check. There's also insightful guidance on mitigating the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and creating a successful communications strategy.

Keep scrolling to learn how you can get involved in the NSPCC's upcoming Number Day.

Happy reading and Happy New Year!

All the best,

**Simon Freeman**

**Education Managing Director | IRIS Education**

## Keeping Children Safe in Education



Where social media's concerned – whether it's TikTok, Snapchat or Facebook - navigating risk can be a minefield.

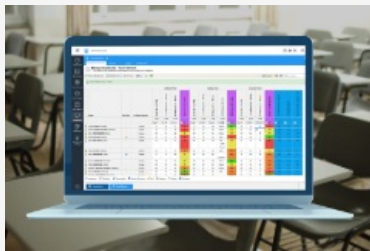
And [statutory guidance](#) for the education sector indicates that schools and colleges should consider conducting online searches as part of their due diligence on shortlisted candidates.

We have good news – it's easy to automate this process.

Sign up to our webinar with Social Media Check and gain the tools you need to keep children safe in a social media age.

Register now

## Monthly Roundup



### Eligible ESS schools can now switch MIS provider

The Competition and Markets Authority recently ruled that schools using ESS can choose to exit their three-year MIS contract and explore alternatives.

Eligible schools have until 10th February to initiate this change and can [make their application online](#).

While the decision to switch may feel like a big one – our blog article will help you navigate the process (which is simpler than you might think).

[Read blog](#)



### 60% of parents want to be more involved in education

It's crucial to develop parental engagement strategies that speak to the needs of parents. But what do parents expect from their child's school? And how can you give parents a voice to ensure your strategies are built around what they actually want?

We surveyed over 70,000 parents so you don't have to second guess.

Download our new guide, [Lessons from Parents](#), to view key findings and take your first step towards more effective parental engagement.

[Download](#)



### The cost-of-living crisis continues to impact families

Earlier this month, the National Institute of Economic and Social Research advocated for a [specific policy intervention](#) to expand provision of free school meals in recognition of the fact that 'providing school meals to vulnerable children improves both health and learning outcomes'.

While we await Government action, our new guide – [Tackling the disadvantage gap during the cost-of-living crisis](#) – offers practicable advice on how educators can help mitigate the impact on pupils.

[Download](#)

### The NSPCC Number Day is coming

Join schools and nurseries across the UK on Friday 3 February for a mega maths fundraising day.

Take part in Dress up for Digits and have a fun-filled day of maths activities and games, while raising money to support the NSPCC services such as Speak out Stay safe and Childline.

With fun, free maths resources available for all age groups, Number Day is the perfect way to get your pupils involved with learning while fundraising.

[Register](#)

## Dates for your Diary



**02.02.23**

Webinar: All I Want for 2023 is... an Engaged Parent Community

[Register](#)



**06.02.23**

Place2Be Children's Mental Health Week

[Take part](#)



**29.03.23**

IRIS is attending the Bett Show 2023

[Get ticket](#)

## Company News



We're a finalist in the Bett Awards 2023

And finally, we are incredibly proud to announce that IRIS Software Group has been shortlisted in the '[Company of the Year](#)' category for this year's Bett Awards, which celebrate the 'inspiring creativity and innovation that can be found throughout technology for education'.

We are so looking forward to catching up with our customers at Bett on the 29th March... and celebrating success with fellow nominees!

[Visit Bett](#)



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