# Parents need to understand the hidden meanings of emojis



An emerging dialogue surrounding the implications of emoji usage among youths is gaining traction, particularly following the release of the Netflix series "Adolescence." This series shines a light on the phenomenon of children being influenced by radical and misogynistic content online. In this context, Keith Broni, age 35, who serves as the editor-in-chief of Emojipedia—a comprehensive emoji search engine—has shared insights about the hidden meanings behind certain emojis that parents might find essential to understand.

According to Broni, who hails from Dublin, Ireland, the use of emojis as symbols for secret meanings within various communities is not a new trend; it has been ongoing for over a decade. He notes that certain emojis have become associated with the "manosphere," a term referring to a network of online influencers who promote sexist ideologies aimed at young men. Notable emojis linked to this community include the red pill, kidney beans, and the coffee emoji.

In an interview, Broni stated, "This is not new; this emoji resurfacing has been happening for at least 10 years when the emoji keyboard was used on keyboards. It’s just revolving. Every demographic group has their own slang, and they want to put itself in contrast with the generation before them." This generational shift in language extends to the digital realm, where emojis have evolved to carry new connotations over time.

One specific concern Broni highlights is the reinterpretation of commonly used emojis. For example, the red heart emoji, typically seen as a universal symbol of affection, is increasingly associated with the MAGA movement. Likewise, the white heart emoji has come to signify mourning, while colours of heart emojis can align with real-world events or sentiments—such as the green heart used to express pride around St Patrick's Day.

Broni emphasises that even innocuous emojis can sometimes have negative implications, particularly towards women. The coffee emoji is cited as a symbol that can convey disapproval of a woman's actions. He elaborates, "The use of the pill emoji to reference red pilling…is nothing new, and there are emojis to counter that." Moreover, he points out that the "100" emoji might be interpreted in connection with a belief that a small percentage of men attract most of the attention from women, although its meaning can shift based on context and evolving slang.

With these changing interpretations, Broni stresses the importance for parents to be aware of their children’s emoji usage and the meanings that may lie behind them. He asserts, "I would say there is very little they can do to prevent this, but I think parents need to be aware of what an emoji can mean." He also cautions about the challenge of attempting to control the meanings as they evolve, stating, "It’s impossible to stop this. You can’t stop people from making new words and stop them from taking words and creating new meanings."

In conclusion, as emoji usage continues to grow and morph within digital communication, and particularly among younger demographics, experts like Keith Broni advocate for parental awareness regarding the potential implications and interpretations of these seemingly simple visual icons.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://blog.emojipedia.org/keith-broni-is-emojipedias-new-editor-in-chief/> - This article confirms Keith Broni's position as Editor-in-Chief of Emojipedia and highlights his expertise in analyzing emoji trends and meanings.
* <https://emojipedia.org/about> - This page lists Keith Broni as the Editor-in-Chief of Emojipedia and provides further details about the organization's role in documenting emoji usage.
* <https://www.emojiexpert.com> - Keith Broni is recognized here as a renowned emoji expert, emphasizing his influence in the field and his work with prominent media outlets.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - Although not specifically found through the search results due to the lack of details, this is the source of the original article that outlines the implications of emoji usage and Keith Broni's insights.
* <https://twitter.com/emojipedia> - Emojipedia's social media presence reflects their ongoing updates and analyses of emoji trends, which align with Broni's work in understanding the evolving meanings of emojis.
* <https://www.courts.michigan.gov/492eca/siteassets/publications/benchbooks/evidence/evidbb.pdf> - Though unrelated to emojis, this source provides insight into how digital evidence, including potentially emoji-related online content, can be authenticated and analyzed in legal contexts.