

E-Safety Advice for School Closure.

In these difficult times the internet and social media have become ever more important and valuable. However, issues of e-safety remain – especially as our students will be spending more time on-line over the coming weeks. I have provided below a list of resources that can be used to support e-safety, including information on parents controls and filters. I regret to say we have already received some reports on attempts at on-line abuse towards our students from the wider internet and so I would like to raise awareness of issues of e-safety.

Information about the digital world and cyber-safety:-

CEOP: the first two links connect to CEOP (Child Exploitation and On-line Protection Centre or the National Crime Agency). This can be used to report any on-line abuse and their “quick-link” icon can be found on the homepage of the School web site. However, should you have an immediate concern this should be reported directly to the police.

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Although these two links offering advice to parents come through a mobile phone company they do contain much useful and important information and were forwarded by a respected safeguarding source:-

<https://www.vodafone.co.uk/mobile/digital-parenting/resources-category>

<https://cdn.flipsnack.com/widget/v2/widget.html?hash=fh90zaf97>

Parental controls. These links offer advice on parental controls and filters that can be installed on devices.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

<https://uk.pcmag.com/parental-control-monitoring/67305/the-best-parental-control-software-for-2020>

<https://www.tomsguide.com/uk/us/best-parental-control-apps,review-2258.html>

Childnet have updated their parent/carer toolkit that will help parents have conversations about online safety.

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/parent-and-carer-toolkit>

Their booklet 'Let's talk about life online' includes ten key messages that should be shared with children:

1. "You can always come to me if you need help."
2. "What would you do if this happened...?"
3. "Remember that not everyone is who they say they are online."
4. "Keep your personal information safe, and other people's too."
5. "Be respectful to others online."
6. "Think before you post."
7. "Remember to ask if it's okay."
8. "Remember not everything is true online."
9. "The things other people post online might not always show what their life is really like."
10. "Recognise how going online makes you feel and take a break when you need to."

I have also included two newspaper articles that deal with specific issues of on-line grooming and particularly (although far from exclusively) as it affects Instagram, as I am aware this is a platform many of our students use.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/02/28/instagram-sees-trebling-child-grooming-offences-paedophiles/>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/sexual-grooming-instagram-social-media-children-paedophile-children-sex-a9099016.html>

In these difficult times social media and the internet is going to be very important for staying in touch, but I do want young people and parents/carers to be aware of some of the dangers and to stay safe.

As a general point if you are concerned about potential abuse:-

- The sender should be blocked;
- Anything sent kept (but NOT forwarded) as potential evidence; and
- The abuse reported to the police and/or CEOP.

Best wishes and hoping you are all able to keep safe. I hope these resources prove useful to you.