
E-Safety Issues and Online Safety

Parents' Evening



Aims of This Presentation

To look at how your children use the internet

To raise your awareness of online safety

To provide guidance on online safety and privacy for your children

To answer any questions you might have



E-safety

E-safety definition: the knowledge of minimising the user's personal safety and security risks on private information and property associated with using the internet, and the self-protection from computer crime in general. Internet safety is a growing concern for both children and adults. Common concerns regarding safety of the internet include malicious users (spam, phishing, cyberbullying, cyberstalking etc.), websites and software (malware, computer virus, etc.) and various types of obscene or offensive content. *(From Wikipedia)*



Why is E-safety Important?

Nothing is private and information on the internet can remain online for many years.

Differences between 1984 and 2014:

As children, today's parents might have passed notes to classmates, had a fight in the playground or scrawled offensive graffiti in toilets. There's no trace of it today.

In 2014, gossip on Facebook **cannot** be removed, fights are filmed and uploaded to YouTube and **cannot** be removed and offensive bullying gets onto Google search results and **cannot** be removed. Will it be there in 10 or 20 years' time?

Children today have to be more responsible and grown-up than their parents were...



Discussion

How many of you have children who use the internet?

How many of you have children who use the internet at home?

How many of you have children who use the internet at home, on their own?

How many of you have children who use the internet at home, on their own, without any monitoring software so that you can check up on them?



Discussion

How many of you have searched your child's name on Google?

How many of you would know how to remove something you didn't like about your child on Google search results?



Why The Internet is a Good Thing

- Great for research
- Cheap or free communication and collaboration
- Easy to create and publish content and get noticed
- Great for children to develop future job skills as fun hobbies
- Introduces children to the world of commerce and business
- Encourages creativity and individualism
- Children feel they have 'ownership' of the Internet



Why as Parents You Might Be Concerned

- Cyber bullying
- Online privacy and personal information
- Reputation management and 'digital footprint'
- Sexting, grooming, pornography and inappropriate material
- Illegal downloads and copyright infringement
- Spam, phishing, viruses and malware
- Children lying about their age to get onto social networking platforms with a 13+ age limit



Discussion

In 1910 – most people thought driving licences were a waste of time and that cars were safe. By 1930 most countries had introduced driving tests and licences.

In 2000 – most people thought the idea of an internet driving licence was crazy and unnecessary because the internet was totally safe and anyone should be allowed to use it.

Do you think people will still think that in 2020 or 2030, when your children will be adults?



E-safety Risks to Look Out For

- Grooming, sexual abuse and sexting
- Cyberbullying, trolling and cyberstalking
- Digital footprint, reputation and identity theft
- Illegal and inappropriate behaviour
- Pornography and inappropriate content
- Too much time spent on the Internet
- Copyright infringement and illegal downloads



How Parents Use The Internet

Many parents use the internet for email, specific research, shopping and web browsing.

Most children use the internet for everything – communication, creativity, first resource for information, games, music, TV, entertainment.



The Internet Does Not Just Involve Computers

- Music downloads – e.g. iTunes
- Multiplayer games with chat
- YouTube and video sites on PCs, iPads and phones
- Email, chat, BBM, messaging, text messaging
- Mobile phones
- Social networking profiles
- Downloading games, music and films



Your Children Know More Than You Do

Your children believe they know more about the internet than you do. And they probably do.

46% of parents agree with the statement: *“My child knows more about the internet than I do”*. 22% of parents of 5 to 7-year-olds agreed, as did 35% of parents of 8 to 11-year-olds and 67% of parents of 12 to 15s. In addition, 54% of 12-15s say that they know how to delete their online history and only 26% say they have done this in the last year. 22% say they know how to disable any online filters or controls, while only 8% say they have done this in the last year. (Source: Ofcom)



But:

Your children have little awareness of:

- What can go wrong.
- The law.
- What the effect of their actions will be in 5,10 or 20 years' time.

As parents you have the advantage of experience.



Discussion

Have your children ever told you about something embarrassing on the Internet?

Have your children told you about friends who have put things up on the Internet which they later regret?

Would you know how to remove something embarrassing about your child?



Do you know what private information your child reveals online?

First name – 70%

Age – 67%

Contact details – 61%

Location – 59%

Email address – 44%

Facebook/Twitter/Skype name – 44%

Birthday – 39%

Full name – 20%

(Source: MSNBC)



Facebook

Age restrictions – 13+

Your rights as parents:

Report your underage child -

www.facebook.com/help/contact/209046679279097

Ways to report other incidents to Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/help/441374602560317/>



Discussion

- How many of your children have a Facebook account?
- How many of your children have lied about their age?
- Would you know how to change their privacy settings?
- Do you know how to report bullying on Facebook as a parent?
- How many of your children have used someone else's Facebook account – for example an older brother's or sister's, or yours?



Children should not lie about their age

It is crucial that children do not lie about their age.

Many social networking platforms – especially Facebook – have built-in child protection features which are only activated for children aged 13-16. If the child claims they are older, these features are switched off.

Harassment and bullying reports go to the top of the queue for 13-16s. Material is more likely to be deleted by Facebook.

Also, uninitiated contact by an adult will be automatically flagged by Facebook, and all chat, posts and messages will be monitored. Anything of concern will get forwarded by Facebook to law enforcement.

But only if the child is between 13 and 16.



Cyberbullying statistics

- Over 80% of teens use a mobile phone regularly, and it is the most popular form of technology for cyberbullying
- About half of young people have experienced some form of cyberbullying, and 10% to 20% experience it regularly.
- Hurtful and offensive comments and rumours are the most common types of cyberbullying.
- Girls are at least as likely as boys to be cyberbullies or their victims.
- Boys are more likely to be threatened by cyberbullies than girls.
- Cyberbullying affects all races and sexual orientations.
- Cyberbullying victims are more likely to consider suicide.

(Source: The Cyberbullying Research Center)



Discussion

- Have you seen cyberbullying on the Internet?
- Do you know someone who has been a victim of cyberbullying?
- Has your child been the victim of cyberbullying?
- Have you tried to help a victim of cyberbullying by responding or commenting on the Internet?
- Would you know how to delete cyberbullying?



How to take a screenshot

To keep evidence of internet activity, take a screenshot.

This website explains how to take a screenshot on all common computers and mobile devices:

<http://www.take-a-screenshot.org/>



The internet and the law

When and how to contact the police

Cyberbullying can be reported as a crime under the Communications Act 2003, section 127, the Malicious Communications Act 1988 and, if there are more than three instances, the Protection from Harassment Act 1997.

Visit the police in person, ensure a statement is taken and request a crime number.



Sexting statistics

Teens who have sent or posted nude or semi-nude photos or videos of themselves:

- 20% of teens overall
- 22% of teen girls
- 18% of teen boys
- 11% of teen girls between the ages of 13-16

Teens that have sent sexually suggestive messages:

- 39% of all teens
- 37% of teen girls
- 40% of teen boys
- 48% of teens say they have received such messages

Sexting statistics

- 71% of teen girls and 67% of teen boys who have sent or posted sexually suggestive content say they have sent/posted this content to a boyfriend/girlfriend.
- 21% of teen girls and 39% of teen boys say they have sent such content to someone they wanted to date or hook up with.
- 75% of teens say sending sexually suggestive content “can have serious negative consequences”.

(Sources: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, The Pew Internet & American Life Project and the Cox Communications Teen Online & Wireless Safety Survey)



Indecent and inappropriate images statistics

13% of UK 9 to16-year-olds said they had been bothered or upset by something online in the past year.

11% of UK children aged 9 to16 years old have encountered sexual images on the internet, 8% have seen online sexual images including nudity, 6% have seen images of someone having sex, 6% have seen someone's genitals and 2% have seen violent sexual images all in the past 12 months.

12% of UK 11 to16-year-olds have received sexual messages and 4% have sent sexual messages via the internet .

19% of UK 11 to 16-year-olds have seen one or more types of potentially harmful user-generated content (as defined by EU Kids Online). Source: [EU kids online: national perspectives \(PDF\)](#).

Figures taken from a pan-European 2010 survey of children aged 9 to16 years old, which included responses from 1,032 children in the UK.



CEOP statistics

The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre receive reports relating to online and offline child sexual abuse.

In 2012-13, the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre received a total of 18,887 reports, an average of 52 every day.

6% of reports received required urgent attention as the child was at immediate risk of harm – that's an average of 3 every day.

(Source: CEOP)



Monitoring and rules at school

- Schools have facilities and policies in place to:
 - Supervise internet use
 - Monitor internet activity
 - Filter out inappropriate websites
 - Uphold rules and acceptable use agreements regarding computer usage.
 - Teach pupils good behaviour when using the internet.



How can you help as a parent?

Set time limits for internet use. Balance time on the computer with time outside or other activities.

Ensure your child is confident to confide in a parent if they are concerned by something they see or experience on the web.

Explain why it is not a good idea to give out private information. What would a university think, or a future employer if they read the information in years to come?

Consider placing internet access in communal rooms.

Discourage meeting online friends unless an adult is present.



What you can do as a parent?

- Take responsibility
- Set clear rules
- Set clear consequences
- Ensure your expectations at home reflect real-life expectations at school, at university, in employment and in terms of the law.



SMART rules for children

From http://old.kidsmart.org.uk/movies/Safe_Surfing.swf

- Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information when you're chatting or posting online. Personal information includes your email address, phone number and password.
- Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' or carers' permission and even then only when they can be present. Remember online friends are still strangers even if you have been talking to them for a long time.
- Accepting emails, IM messages, or opening files, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems – they may contain viruses or nasty messages!
- Reliable - Someone online might lie about who they are and information on the internet may not be true. Always check information with other websites, books or someone who knows. If you like chatting online it's best to only chat to your real world friends and family
- Tell your parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online.



Filtering and monitoring at home

How do you control and monitor your child's internet use at home?

Available products:

[Mypornblocker](#)

[Cybersieve](#)

[Chronager](#)

[iProtectYou](#)

Additional advice on parental controls is available from Internet Matters:

www.internetmatters.org/technologies/parental-controls.html



Sources of further information

- Know It All for parents
www.childnet.com
- Think u Know (CEOP)
www.thinkuknow.co.uk
- Kidsmart resources
www.kidsmart.org.uk
- RegainYourName (advice on deleting cyberbullying)
www.regainyourname.com



Conclusion: The internet should be positive for children

- Creativity – skills for job prospects
- Communication and collaboration skills
- Digital literacy

But:

- Keep private information private, and beware of creating a negative digital footprint.
- Be responsible and report and discuss inappropriate content.

