STAY SAFE

Winter 2014 ~ Edition 2

How can you help keep your children safe online?

Recent research show that parents are using a range of tools to manage children's access to the internet

- Parental controls offered by the Internet Service Provider (ISP)

- Parental controls offered by the computer's operating system

- Parental controls through programmes installed or downloaded by someone in the household.

These three types of technical control are referred to collectively in the research data as "Parental controls" but the research also covers:

- Browser based controls like Safe Search;

- Time limiting software;

- YouTube Safety Mode; and

- Content provider guidance such as Pin protected content.

But for the majority of parents the strategies of discussion, rules and monitoring are a crucial part of how they manage the risks to their children online.

WHAT IS "SEXTING"?

Sexting is when someone sends or receives a sexually explicit text, image or video on their mobile phone, usually in a text message. Find out how you can stay in control and what to do if a photo has fallen into the wrong hands.

If you are worried then Childline has some good advice that you can share or discuss with your children.

http://www.childline.org.uk/ explore/onlinesafety/Pages/ Sexting.aspx

ONLINE CRIME

Under the Communications Act 2003, a person is guilty of an offence if they send *"a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character"* by means of an electronic communications network.

Some Facts: (BBC September 2013)

- About 2,000 crimes related to online abuse are being reported to the police in London each year, according to new figures.

- The Met Police said the number of incidents related to online harassment and bullying had increased by 3.1% compared to the previous year.

- More than 1,700 cases involving abusive messages sent online or via text message reached the English and Welsh courts in 2012. (This is a 10% increase on the figures for 2011).

- Nearly 600 charges were brought between January and May 2013.

- Twitter has recently introduced a "report Tweet" button to try and combat trolling.

Research from Ofcom 2014

The use of tablets has tripled this year, becoming the device of choice for 8-11s to access audio visual content and games.

Over six in ten 12-15s now own a smartphone and it is the most popular device for social networking among that age group.

Children's confident adoption of new technologies has many positive outcomes with benefits of use ranging from education, communication, social engagement and entertainment.

The vast majority of parents say they trust their children to use the internet safely

This agreement increases with each age-group;

- 52% of parents of 3-4s,

- 72% of parents of 5-7s,

- 83% of parents of 8-11s and

- 89% of parents of 12-15s.

However, parents also report having concerns about their child's online activities.

One third of 12-15s with a social networking profile in 2013 have it set so that it can be potentially viewed by people unknown to them. This is up from 22% last year: *www.childline.org.uk* has some useful information on setting up safe profiles on social networking sites.

MORE INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

**There are many useful sources of information about keeping safe online available
- below are listed some of them**

Guide to the technology children use:
Guidance provided by Safer Internet Centre on internet enabled
devices, smartphones and gaming online
www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/parents-and-carers/parents-guide-to-technology

Cyber Street Wise - A useful website giving information on how to keep your home and business more cyber safe.
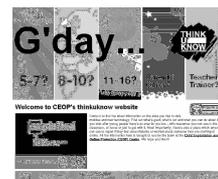*www.cyberstreetwise.org*

Digital Parenting - Vodaphone UK's website has lots of useful information and a great magazine resource with information and advice called "Digital Parenting"
www.vodaphone.com/content/parents.html

Kidscape - Website with information to support parents and carers who are concerned about bullying
www.kidscape.org.uk

Think U Know - An education website with support children, parents and teachers
www.thinkuknow.co.uk

How to set up controls on the internet

The link gives guidance as to how to set up controls for the

4 main UK providers - BT, Sky, TalkTalk and Virgin Media

http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/parents-and-carers/parental-controls