

E-safety Newsletter

Spring 2024

Edition 4

Do you know the latest statistics for children being exploited online?

What are the latest online developments to be aware of?

Do your children speak to you if they are worried about something online?



Reporting Online Concerns

It is very likely that anyone using the internet will come across materials which is at best inappropriate and at worst illegal. To reduce the risk of people seeing such content, reporting this so it can be taken down is essential. Follow the link below from the NSPCC to find out more about how to report content so that you can support your child in reporting concerns that may have.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-reporting>

End-to-End Encryption Messaging

There are a growing number of messaging apps out there that use end-to-end encryption. This is used to enhance the privacy of users.

However, this does come with risks. This method of encryption can make it harder (or impossible depending on how they roll it out) for companies to find and report child sexual abuse material, such as images, videos and grooming conversations, to law enforcement agencies. This also makes it more challenging for law enforcement agencies to detect people who are looking to manipulate and groom children. Often these people will start communicating with children on games or apps without the encryption and then try to move conversations to a platform with the encryption – this is something children should be aware of. Examples of apps that use end-to-end encryption are: WhatsApp, Telegram, Session, Signal and Element, but there are many more. Please follow the link below for more details and a parent guide about end-to-end encryption.

<https://www.iwf.org.uk/resources/end-to-end-encryption-and-keeping-your-child-safe-online/>

Instagram

Instagram is one of the most used social media platforms across the world today. Children should be 13 to be using this platform; however, there are many primary-aged pupils that have accounts to access Instagram. If your child is using Instagram, there are important things that you and they can do to help them in seeing only appropriate content and avoid the dangers of strangers online. The following link gives a checklist of advice for anyone using Instagram. Well worth a look through with your child if they are using this platform.

<https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/checklists/instagram/>

The 2 Johns are coming to school!

Last year, many of you will, I'm sure, remember the excellent online parent session run by two former police officers about how to support your child in staying safe online.

We are delighted to announce that this year, thanks to funding from the PTA, that they are coming into school. They will run workshops for our key stage two children, the staff and will be running a parent workshop in the school hall from 7pm to 8:30pm.

The online world poses many different dangers to any child using the internet, regardless of their age and the 2 Johns are always up-to-date with the latest apps, scams and ways in which children can be harmed online. As parents themselves and talking to children regularly, they have excellent, practical tips and advice for how you can help your child to make safe and responsible choices online. Look out for further information in your inbox!

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