



Parents Online Safety Workshop

Tuesday 6th February 2018

'The internet can be extremely beneficial for children; they can use it to learn, communicate, develop, create and explore the world around them. However, too often, it also leaves them vulnerable to risks and exposes them to experiences which they find upsetting. These online risks are not always fully understood but it is essential for children's safety that they are addressed. For many children, a distinction between their online and offline lives does not exist'

'How safe are our children?' (NSPCC, 2014)

Based on HRBQ survey data (2016), we know that children at Dorridge Primary School are using the internet often, for a long time and for a wide range of purposes. Our findings tell us:

71% of children said that their parents/carers have rules about what they are allowed to do online	2% admit to chatting online to people that they have never met
32% of children use the internet for chatting	0% reported receiving a chat message that scared them or made them feel upset
11% use the internet for Facebook, Instagram and Whatsapp	60% have been told how to stay safe while chatting online

What the local authority is telling us about children in Solihull:

- Children are increasingly accessing the internet away from home, on portable devices
- The prevalence of online chatting increases with age and is particularly popular with girls in primary and secondary schools
- Data shows that there has been an increase in pupils learning about how to stay safe online in the borough, and the level of chatting has decreased significantly
- Chatting to strangers online is a particular issue for boys – this is thought to be because of the popularity of playing games, where talking to others can be part of the experience
- Social media is an integral part of the days of the majority of secondary school pupils – only 11% report they do not use social media
- The sharing of images online is a common occurrence – 8% of year 4 and 6 children have had an image of themselves shared online that they did not like.



<p>CONDUCT What is the digital footprint they are leaving on the internet? Who can see their information, photos and comments? Is their personal information safe? Are they behaving towards others in the same way they would like to be treated? Are they fully aware of the consequences of their comments and posts?</p>	<p>CONTENT Are the photos, texts and videos that they are viewing appropriate? How are they accessing content – is it through websites, blogs, social networking, online games? Are they reading things that are misleading, biased or dangerous? Are they downloading safely and legally?</p>
<p>COMMERCIALISATION Are they being targeted by adverts and marketing campaigns? Are they spending money online knowingly or unknowingly? Are they being faced with spam and pop up adverts? Are in-app purchases enabled? Are they giving out personal or family information, such as their address?</p>	<p>CONTACT Who are the children talking to online? How are they communicating? Are there records of their conversations? Are they adding friends or strangers to contact lists and sharing information with them? Are they regularly reviewing friends lists? Do your children understand what cyberbullying is and whether they might be involved or be a victim of it?</p>

Further Reading: ‘Let Children be Children’ 2011 – the Bailey report, about the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood.
 ‘Safer Children in a Digital World’ 2008 – Byron Report, about the use of the internet, games and social networking by children.
 ‘How Safe are our Children?’ 2014 – a report from NSPCC, analysing child protection data from the UK and identifying the key indicators of child abuse (of which online harm is one)
www.netlingo.com - explanations and definitions of online jargon
www.take-a-screenshot.org – instructions for how taking screenshots on a range of devices
www.childnet.com/parents-carers-need-help - what to do if you are worried or need help
<http://www.childnet.com/resources/how-to-make-a-report/> - links to making reports about inappropriate content on a Playstation, Skype, Tumblr, Facebook, Twitter, Xbox, Youtube
www.internetmatters.org – a wealth of information about the risks and what you can do to help
 Switched on Families – resources from Virgin about protecting your family online
 Digital Parenting – resources from Vodafone about online use, risks and support. Lots of useful ‘How to’ guides for setting up parental controls and very good PDF magazine which covers current issues
www.justdelete.me – instructions to remove, cancel and delete accounts on lots of websites
www.kidsmart.org.uk/digitalfootprint - information about the trail you leave online, aimed at children.

- Key actions to keep your child safe online:
- **Inform** yourself about what your children are doing online
 - Maintain a **dialogue** about safer internet use in your home
 - Make sure your children know what to do if they need **help**
 - Learn and **use** the technology, set up and use parental controls

- What you can do if you think your child is being bullied or groomed online:
- Take screen shots of conversations and photos
 - Maintain an dialogue with your children
 - Reassure them that sharing concerns and issues is the right thing to do
 - Come in to school and tell/show us
 - Report to the website
 - Contact the Police if necessary

