

PARENTS – KEY MESSAGES FOR PREVENTING HARM

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On Line issues and how to stay safe

- If your name is on the contract for devices & broadband, YOU are legally responsible for the communications which flow through
- HR departments can look at Google to see applicant's social media to make an assessment regarding employment etc
- Be aware FACEBOOK images of your children are not secure.
- Abusers rely on the fact today's youngsters have BLURRED boundaries online of a friend and a stranger and the perpetrators go to extraordinary lengths to disguise themselves using voice distorters and to generally deceive.
- www. IS world wide web!
- NO image or message can be hidden, erased or a change of mind once sent it is there FOREVER on the internet
- Delete anyone on social media who is NOT known to your child
- Keep webcams covered - abusers do all they can to engage with children
- Weak passwords are easily hacked make them at least 12 characters & a different password for EVERY account
- Is family screen time under YOUR control?
- Does screen time interfere with family activities?
- Do you manage "snack time" whilst playing games?
- Are they getting enough sleep?
- Royal Society of paediatrics Children should stop screen use every 2 hours and go for a walk or a snack break etc and recommend switching off devices an hour before bed time
- Keep GHOST MODE ON for Snap Chat .
- Keep "location services" switched OFF
- Use "two step verification" for devices
- **It is in bedrooms and bathrooms and private spaces where the greatest risk exists . PLEASE Take devices out of bedroom**
- NOBODY under the age of 18 years old can take a sexualised photo of themselves - in law they are guilty of "possession", send it on and guilty of "distribution "
- SEXTING is illegal and if reported to police could end up with a REPORT against their name detrimental to their future life due to DBS checks stating "sexualised offence"
- SEXTING includes wearing underwear – any image which is sexually provocative is illegal
- If your child shows signs of anxiety and depression and this has recently occurred ask WHY, is it connected to behaviours on social media? Assure them you are there to support and help them, we ALL made mistakes when young
- FORTNITE abusers are contacting through VOICE CHAT turn the chat OFF
- Check on your child if they hide the screen of their phone or keep going out to answer it.
- No child under 13 yrs of age should be on social media. This is guidance from the various apps and platforms, not law

Exploitation and Knives and County lines how to stay safe and where & who the dangers lie

- Remind children of CONSENT – it is important they understand the need for “NO”
- PRESS the fact today’s STRANGER is often someone THEIR own or similar age at the start of CSE and county lines
- JOINT ENTERPRISE – guilty by association
- Discover where “dangerous “places maybe prevalent in YOUR area
- NEVER give anyone your phone who you don’t know **BUT ALWAYS HAND IT OVER IF YOU ARE THREATENED**
- NEVER accept cigarettes/money from someone unknown
- NEVER accept a phone from someone other than parents and family
- NEVER walk home with someone they don’t know or invite them into the house
- If a situation arises RUN and SHOUT “FIRE” and go to a safe space and tell someone
- ALWAYS have an escape plan when out and about an arranged text word
- ALWAYS know where your child is and with whom and time expected home
- ALWAYS keep mobile phone charged
- Criminal age of responsibility is 10 years old
- “Joint enterprise” means guilty by association just by being part of a group and a crime happens
- If your child has changed friendship groups, truanting, going out as soon as they come home – where are they going?
- Notice if your child has “post codes” on their belongings and tell school – this is a sign of “turf gangs”
- IF you feel concerned of your child’s behaviours and places they frequent DO TELL SCHOOL! Teachers are there to support you and your family

RESOURCES :

Useful short films: “The Cup of Tea” and “Kayleigh’s love story” found on You Tube and “Breck Bednar “

Please do read our parental guidance documents and Digital Generation document and download our guidance videos :

On our home page : www.freedom-abuse.org for £4.99 for a 7 day download – various topics go top our home page, scroll down to “ online training” click and see the titles

If you are aware of a crime DO call Crimestoppers UK – **0800 555 111** – guaranteed anonymous reporting

Do contact us if you need further advice www.freedom-abuse.org