Online Safety News

New updated resource: Staying safe online

Stonewall, in partnership with Childnet, have updated and launched 'Staying Safe Online'. This guide contains practical strategies to best support all children and young people online, including those who are LGBT. Paul Twocock, Interim Chief Executive, Stonewall states:

'For some young people, and in particular those who are lesbian, gay, bi and trans (LGBT), the internet …provides a way to reach out to others having similar experiences to them….. Unfortunately, as we're increasingly aware, the internet also poses risks….For those who are LGBT, the risks are often even more pronounced – either because the information they're given around internet safety doesn't specifically address LGBT issues, or because they're afraid they will be judged or outed for their sexual orientation or gender identity if they ask for advice. Homophobic, biphobic and transphobic abuse is rife online, with nearly all LGBT pupils being exposed to offensive content about LGBT people.

This guide is for teachers, educators and parents wanting to ensure the LGBT young people they know feel able to speak openly about their experiences online, and to make safer and more informed choices in their digital lives. Here you'll discover simple changes you can make in your school or college, and you'll hear from young people themselves about life online.'

The guide can be downloaded here: **Stonewall | Staying safe online**

Keeping parents informed

Parental engagement is crucial in making sure children receive consistent online safety messages at home and at school.

The wide range of articles published by CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Comand) help inform parents and carers of the opportunities and risks presented by the online world, and help them feel more confident when talking to their child about sensitive topics, such as relationships, sex and image sharing.

Visit the CEOP's Thinkuknow education programme website for resources to share with parents: **thinkuknow | Parents**

Your school or setting may also wish to use '**Parent Info**' which can be embedded into your website. This is a free information service offering parents help and advice for families about the digital world. Its newsfeed function, provides easy access to up-to-date articles with advice across topics such as:

➢ Games, apps and technology

➢ Sex and relationships

➢ Health and wellbeing

Register your school or organisation here to find out how you can embed the function:
Parent Info from CEOP and ParentZone | Register

Herts for Learning

01438 845111
hertsforlearning.co.uk

So you got naked online

This resource, first published by the South West Grid For Learning (SWGfL) in 2012, has recently been updated and it helps and advises young people who may find themselves in a situation where they (or a friend) have put a sexting image or video online and have lost control over the content and who it's being shared with.

This resource offers support and advice to children, young people ,parents and carers following a sexting incident.

This FREE resource is available to download from the SWGfL website
SWGfL | So You Got Naked Online

Further useful links include:
Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) –
IWF | Report an indecent image of a child online
UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCCIS)
UKCCIS | Guidance for schools and colleges on responding in instances of 'sexting'
CEOP - two new image sharing articles for 11-13 year olds:
Send me a pic?
When pics get shared around

'Free to be Me'

Piecing together identity online

For Safer Internet Day 2020, the UK Safer Internet Centre launched a report into how young people manage, curate and navigate their online identity.

The research states:

'Whilst being online is clearly important to young people's sense of self, it does not outweigh other significant influences. Young people see their online identity as one part of a larger puzzle of what makes them who they are. Half of young people (49%) say that the things they do and see online contribute to their sense of identity. Their parents and family (78%), hobbies and interests (76%),friends (73%), how they look (63%), teachers and school experience (56%) all are reported as being more important influences.'

The report can be accessed here:
UK Safer Internet Centre | Free to be me: Piecing together identity online

STAR SEN Toolkit updated

Childnet has launched new resources within their STAR SEN toolkit for supporting young people with special educational needs. This resource covers topics such as sexting, trustworthiness of information and people and recognising edited content online.

Kate Edwards, Childnet's Education and Safeguarding Manager, explains the importance of this work:

Details of the resource can be found here:
Childnet | New for 2020 – Second Part of the STAR SEN Toolkit launched

"We know that Children with SEN are enthusiastic users of technology with them **being one third more likely to spend more then 5 hours a day online.** This increase in usage can lead them to be more likely to experience risks online and can even be preyed upon due to their vulnerabilities…… From speaking to educators, we know there has been a great need for age appropriate SEN resources which allow educators the maximum amount of flexibility to meet the needs of their students. That is exactly what we are aiming to create with the STAR toolkit making it the most comprehensive online safety resource for SEN children to date."

Know the Stakes – Helping young people control their finances and understand the risks of gambling

It's important that young people understand the risks of gambling. Parent Zone and GambleAware have created a **free** resource pack for parents, carers and professionals to support young people to stay in control of their finances and understand the risks of gambling.

Vicki Shotbolt, Founder and CEO of Parent Zone explains

To download a free pack visit:
ParentZone | Know the Stakes

"As teenagers and young adults start to have to cope with financial independence, they have to learn how to make informed decisions… What is important in a digital world is that professionals remember that gambling is one of the issues they need to be talking to young people about."

For more information, advice and training about online safety across the curriculum and embedding this within a wider whole school approach to include mental health, positive relationships and safeguarding, please contact the Herts for Learning Wellbeing team at **wellbeing@hertsforlearning.co.uk** or visit **hertsforlearning.co.uk**

The information in the newsletter is given to help promote the safety of children and young people online.

Every care has been taken to ensure the information and any recommendations in the newsletter are accurate at the time of publishing. Schools must make their own judgements when sharing our recommendations with parents and carers and, where appropriate, always risk assess with their pupils and whole school community in mind.

This newsletter is brought to you by the Herts for Learning Wellbeing team as part of their online safety support for schools and settings in Hertfordshire.

Herts for Learning

01438 845111
hertsforlearning.co.uk