SAFEGUARDING

Welcome to our Parent Safeguarding Newsletter Issue 2

During these uncertain times, many staff, parents and learners may be seeking regular online contact, to help maintain a sense of routine and provide access to educational and pastoral support. Technology use during this time needs to be carefully managed.

SAFEGUARDING TEAM

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The University of Sunderland and Huawei have published a research report called 'Living the future - The Technological Family and the Connected Home'. The research investigates the challenges and opportunities presented by technologies in the home and how they have been intensified during the pandemic. Their research can be viewed on YouTube via the below link.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rN_98kmHpTM&feature=emb_title

As a parent or carer you play a key role in helping your child to stay safe online, and you don't need to be an expert on the internet to do this.
The UK Safer Internet Centre has an interactive guide to support the following:

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES?	HAVE A CONVERSATION	SAFETY TOOLS ON SOCIAL NETWORKS AND OTHER ONLINE SERVICES
PARENTAL CONTROLS OFFERED BY YOUR HOME INTERNET PROVIDER	PARENTS' GUIDE TO TECHNOLOGY	RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

You can access the UK Safer Internet Centre guide via the below link.
https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers

SOCIAL MEDIA CHECKLIST

In addition, the South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL) have updated some of their popular Social Media Checklists, including two new leaflets for Roblox and TikTok. The guides are free to download and use. These leaflets are helpful to provide balanced advice on safer usage of popular apps and can be downloaded from the links below:

Facebook
https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/checklists/facebook/

Twitter
https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/checklists/twitter/

Instagram
https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/checklists/instagram/

Snapchat
https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/checklists/snapchat/

Roblox
https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/checklists/roblox/

Tiktok
https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/checklists/tiktok/

Netflix
https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/checklists/netflix-checklist/

Several recognised organisations are also providing online safety related home learning and safe use of technologies.
These include:

NCA-CEOP: Think U Know Home Activity Packs
https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/

Children's Commissioner: Digital safety and wellbeing kit
https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/coronavirus/digital-safety-and-wellbeing-kit/

WWW.OMEGLE.COM

We have recently become aware of an increase in popularity of the website www.omegle.com/.

The site enables children to be able to talk to complete strangers, parents need to be aware of the dangers of their children accessing this website and the potential risks.

Omegle is a free online chat service which pairs random strangers into an online video call or text conversation, without the need to register or create an account. According to Omegle, the service is a great way to meet new friends while staying safe and anonymous, but openly admits that 'predators have been known to use Omegle'.

DIGITAL 5 A DAY KIT

The Digital 5 a day kit provides information for parents as well as a safety guide to help students ensure they are safe, and their wellbeing is looked after when screen time maybe higher than usual.

The digital safety kit provides useful tips and guidance to help protect your young person on a range of issues including video calling, how to ensure your device and web browser are set up and updated correctly and tips regarding best practice with your username and passwords.

VIDEO CALLING

- Make sure you password protect your call. If this is not available consider if you should be using it.
- Think about your surroundings.

DEVICES

- Make sure all devices have the most up-to-date security versions on them.
- Improve your settings, eg. Use the 'Safe mode' to block pop-ups and some adverts. Turn off Location ID so people can't see where the device is being used.

BROWSERS AND ADD-ONS

- Browse securely. Use a browser that supports child safety and limits advertising. Firefox and Google Chrome have features built in that support privacy and security.
- Watch out for fake news.
- Install an adblocker, such as uBlock Origin, which will turn them off for most websites.

USERNAMES AND PASSWORDS

- Make sure your username and profile information doesn't give strangers information on your young person's name, age and location.
- Set a strong password.
- Vary your password on different devices.

APPS

- Beware of 'persuasive design.' Lots of apps have built in features to keep us glued to the screen. If you do one thing, turn off auto-play whenever you can.
- Consider using Family accounts - control several aspects of accounts including:
a. Screen time limits.
b. Safe search controls.
c. Permissions that apps have access to.
d. Activities this account has access to.
e. Password management.

For more detailed information please use the link below:
https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/cco-parents-digital-safety-wellbeing-kit.pdf

CORONAVIRUS SCAMS

Scammers are continually finding more inventive ways of obtaining our personal information and are more convincing than ever when reassuring us that they are contacting us from trusted, reputable sources. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, there haVE been a number of reports of scams increasing, demonstrating not only the more complex methods employed by scammers, but also the increasing vigilance of consumers in spotting and reporting scams.

The National Trading Standards (NTS) Scams Team has produced some helpful materials to promote scam awareness at this difficult time.

The NTS team have also released information detailing how criminals exploit people's fears about coronavirus and prey on members of the public, particularly older and vulnerable people who are isolated from family and friends.

Please find them here:

Link to National Trading Standards website
https://www.nationaltradingstandards.uk/news/beware-of-covid19-scams/

Link to Friends Against Scams
https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/article/505/beware_of_covid_19_scams

Link to Friends Against Scams training
https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/training/friends-elearning

If you become aware of any scams relating to Covid-19 please contact the Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or Tel: 03001232040.

FIND A FOODBANK

Foodbanks work with frontline professionals to identify people in need and issue them with a foodbank voucher. These include local agencies such as children's centres, housing associations, advice charities and mental health teams, who are best placed to assess need.

Once a person is referred, they can bring the voucher to their nearest foodbank centre, where it can be exchanged for a parcel containing a minimum of three days' nutritionally balanced food.

Foodbanks are designed to provide short-term, emergency support with food during a crisis. Their aim is to relieve the immediate pressure of the crisis by providing food, while also providing additional support to help people resolve the crisis that they face.

To access the local foodbank please visit
https://rutland.foodbank.org.uk/