

eSafety Newsletter Autumn 2011

In this termly newsletter we highlight eSafety issues, trends and concerns to help keep your school up-to-date with this ever evolving area of Safeguarding. The news and information is shared with you on behalf of our eSafety panel, which brings together professionals from the police, child protection, school services, unions, HR and voluntary agencies.

We hope that this is useful for all those concerned with safeguarding in your school, including your governors. Please do contact the Herts ICT Team if you would like to discuss any individual issues or receive specific information.

Ofcom UK Media Literacy Report 2011

This fascinating annual report confirms that children of all ages are increasingly using a variety of devices to go online. In 2010 3% of 5-7 yrs, 13% of 8-11yrs and 35% of 12 - 15yrs owned a Smartphone. Many Hertfordshire schools report that most of their year 6 pupils have a Blackberry or iPhone! Over half of 12-15 year olds say they 'mostly use the internet alone' and significant numbers of primary children are also accessing the internet from their bedroom. To read the full report visit: <http://bit.ly/hertsafetya2>

Safer Internet Day 7th February 2012

This event takes place each year during the Spring term and the theme will be '**Connecting generations and educating each other**'. This will be a good opportunity for schools to do further work with families to raise awareness of eSafety. There will be some new national resources available in January and further information in the Spring newsletter.

Some ideas to get started:

- Have a school assembly, led by the children, especially for grandparents
- Hold parent and child eSafety sessions on topics such as:
 - Setting up your profile on MoshiMonsters/ Star Doll/ Facebook etc
 - Staying Safe when using Facebook
 - Using the CEOP '**Report Abuse**' button

For more ideas contact esafety@hertscc.gov.uk

Who is watching our children?



We know that children and young people use smartphones, games consoles, iPads and so on, often in their own rooms. Many of these devices have built-in webcams which our children can confidently use. But do their parents/ carers know who they are talking to and who can see their child? We hope that **Safer Internet Day** will give us all the opportunity to raise these questions with the whole school community!

Parental controls – help your children manage their media

Ofcom have produced four excellent guides for parents/ carers which can be read online or downloaded from <http://bit.ly/esafetyherts3>

- Protecting your children in a digital world
- Parental controls for mobile phones
- Mobile location based services
- Parental controls for games consoles/portable media players

This may be a really helpful link to highlight in **your school newsletter** this term.

Formspring and Cyberbullying

Formspring is a social networking site used by many secondary aged pupils and occasionally younger children. It is based around users asking and answering questions, often anonymously. We are increasingly hearing of Cyberbullying concerns related to the use of this social networking site and would recommend schools promote the advice from CEOP to pupils and their parents/carers. This advice can be found:

<http://www.thegrid.org.uk/eservices/safety/news.shtm>

Munch, Poke, Ping – safeguarding vulnerable young people online

This eSafety research report produced for the TDA helps to reflect on the specific risks vulnerable young people encounter when online and provides clear recommendations.

<http://bit.ly/hertsesafetya1>

Stop and Think - words can hurt

Anti-bullying week starts on **Monday 14th November** and the theme '**Stop and Think - words can hurt**' is very appropriate in relation to **Cyberbullying**. Online bullying is use of ICT, mobile phones and the internet to deliberately upset someone else and includes bullying via:

- text messages and email
- messages posted in chat rooms or comments made on a Facebook Wall
- instant messaging and BB Messaging

Teachers and children can be victims of Cyberbullying and many of the reported eSafety incidents have an aspect of Cyberbullying. Further information about 'Anti-bullying' week can be found on the on the **HGfL Anti-bullying website**

<http://www.thegrid.org.uk/learning/hwb/bullying/>

School Staff and eSafety/Cyberbullying

A recent research report published by the UK Safer Internet Centre identifies the growing problem of school staff becoming victims of an eSafety incident. In Hertfordshire we have been proactive in providing effective guidance and support for schools and their staff. We have **eSafety Incident Flowcharts** which are being used across the county and nationally. <http://bit.ly/hertsesafetya5>

We also provide prompt, effective, guidance and support with managing any eSafety incident. **Call 01438 843086** or email esafety@hertsc.gov.uk

Last autumn all schools were provided with copies of the yellow '**Staff Professional Responsibilities Poster**'. Feedback has been very positive and this poster has now been developed for other HCC professionals. To download visit:

<http://bit.ly/hertsesafetya6>

Have you held a recent eSafety session for your staff?

Are they up-to-date with eSafety and do they know how to keep themselves safe online? We provide in-school eSafety training personalised for your school to prevent staff allegations and help with incident management.

eSafety events this Term

Managing eSafety Incidents - Reducing Issues and Fallout

6th October Robertson House, Six Hills Way, Stevenage (course code **11ICT/009A**)

The Sexualisation of Children - Managing the negative influences of the digital age

22nd November - Robertson House, Six Hills Way, Stevenage (course code **11PSE/035P**)

24th November - Greenwood Park Community Centre, Chiswell Green, St Albans, AL2 3HW (course code **11PSE/036P**). To book on the above courses visit: <http://bit.ly/p1Sy3w>

For further eSafety advice, resources, training and to report an incident contact:

Ann Layzell, eSafety Adviser

Chris Seviour, ICT Technical Adviser

esafety@@hertsc.gov.uk

chris.seviour@hertsc.gov.uk



or visit: HGfL <http://www.thegrid.org.uk/eservices/safety/index.shtml>