

eSafety Newsletter

Spring 2014

Produced for Schools, Parents and Carers.



eSafety Competition

Herts for Learning have launched a new eSafety competition, in which schools can win a pair of Raspberry Pi computers. We are inviting schools to create a resource on the theme of 'Don't Feed the Trolls' which can be shared and used by other schools. A 'troll' is the name given to someone who likes to upset other people online, where they can remain anonymous. They bully, harass and offend people by making unpleasant and hurtful comments. There are three age groups for the competition: KS2, KS3 and KS4. The winning entry in each category will win 2 Raspberry Pi computers for the school. For full details and an entry form, please go to www.thegrid.org.uk/eservices/safety/news/#competitions



'Self-Destruct' Messaging

In our last newsletter we talked about Snapchat, the popular photo/video sharing service. The concern with this service is that it may encourage irresponsible sharing as it is assumed the photo or video shared will be automatically deleted shortly after being viewed.

Snapchat is one of many apps where the content 'self-destructs' after a short period of time. These types of messenger apps are growing in popularity, and are sometimes referred to as 'ephemeral messengers.' Some are designed for sharing images and videos, and some just for texting. As no record of the 'chat' is apparently kept, this may encourage their use for bullying or sexting (sending self-generated indecent images, videos or messages.) It is important for people to realise there may still be ways of saving texts or photos, even if only by photographing from another mobile device.

Examples of apps that allow content to 'self-destruct' include Confide, Wickr and Blink.

Online games

Many people do not realise the extent to which online game sites enable contact with other people. By looking over a child's shoulder it may seem that they are simply playing a game, but in many cases they may be connecting with other online players, with which they could chat and share information. It is important that parents and carers are aware of the online games that their children are playing, or online communities they have joined, and to make themselves familiar with the sort of interaction these sites may enable. Some online communities and game sites aimed at children have special sections for parents to help make them aware of these features.

Extreme or inappropriate content within games



Most people are aware that many computer and console games come with a PEGI age rating (Pan European Game Information.) Even with an age rating attached, parents/carers may want to know more about the content which can be found within a game that their child wants to play. The Internet Movie Database (www.imdb.com) is a huge website with information about everything to do with movies. It also contains information about many

games, including a **Parents' Guide** which details some of the content which may be of concern. This helps parents/carers make a more informed decision about whether the game is appropriate or not.

ZIPIT App

Last year a survey of several hundred 13 to 18 year olds, undertaken by Childline, revealed that as many as 60% of them had been asked for sexual images or videos. There may be an increasing pressure on young people to share sexual images of themselves. To help them manage this pressure Childline has produced a free app called 'Zipit' which contains a 'flirting guide', advice and a selection of humorous pictures which can be used in response to a request for a sexual image. The app is available on the App Store (iPhone/iPod/iPad,) Google Play (Android) and Blackberry App World.



Stop Cyberbullying Day - A global day of unity and positivity

On Friday 20th June 2014 the Cybersmile Foundation will be celebrating its 2nd year of Stop Cyberbullying Day. Stop Cyberbullying Day is an annual day where everybody can get involved and make a difference both on and off-line.

The Cybersmile Foundation is the UK's first dedicated cyberbullying charity. It is committed to offering support to those affected by cyberbullying and their families, as well as educating people of all ages to respect the dangers of the internet and to consider their peers' feelings whilst interacting online.

For more information visit: www.cybersmile.org/stop-cyberbullying-day

Safer Internet Day 2014

This annual event will take place on 11th February 2014, with the theme 'Let's create a better internet together'.

The day offers the opportunity to focus on both the creative things that children and young people are doing online, as well as the role and responsibility that all stakeholders have in helping to create a better internet. Safer Internet Day is organised in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre in February of each year to promote the safe and responsible use of online technology and mobile phones for children and young people. To find out how you can get involved and for more information visit: www.saferinternetday.org.uk



Are you aware of your child's internet activity?

Hertfordshire County Council would like the help of parents and carers to find out more about how school-age children and young people are using the Internet. They are inviting parents/carers to complete a short online survey, which will help inform them when providing information, resources and vital esafety advice to schools and parents across Hertfordshire.

To complete the survey, please visit: www.hertsdirect.org/your-community/news/kidsinternetsurvey/

For further eSafety advice, resources or to report an incident please contact:

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