

**Online gaming** is very popular with children, young people and adults. Games can be played at any time and anywhere, through many different devices including, a games console, Laptop, iPod Touch or mobile phone. The games children play range from Club Penguin to World of Warcraft and can involve playing with many unknown players from around the world. These games have many positives but also have inherent eSafety risks, such as giving out personal information and viewing inappropriate content.

**Some Interesting facts from Ofcom:**

- 9 out of 10 children live in a household with a games console
- 9% of 5-7 yr olds, 14% of 8-11 yr olds and 20% of 12-15 yr olds play games using their mobile phone
- 45% 5 – 7 yr olds, 69% 8 – 11yr olds and 71% 12 – 15 yr olds have a games console in their bedroom
- Over half of children aged 5-15 (53%) who play games say they most often play on their own

The **PEGI** (Pan-European Game Information) has a rating system established to help inform parents and carers about the content of the game their child plays. The website has information, guidance and further weblinks [www.pegionline.eu/](http://www.pegionline.eu/)

**Childnet** has a range of excellent resources including a leaflet about online games and 'Staying Safe' <http://www.childnet.com/downloads/Online-gaming.pdf>

The **Directgov** website has information and guidance for parents. You could add this link to your next newsletter!

[www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/Yourchildshealthandsafety/Internetsafety/DG\\_182616](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/Yourchildshealthandsafety/Internetsafety/DG_182616)

**Hertfordshire 'One Stop' shop for eSafety**

The eSafety of children, young people and school staff are a key priority. To support Headteachers and senior leaders we are able to provide, at no charge to all Hertfordshire schools:

- Fast and effective advice, guidance and support with managing eSafety incidents
- Sample policies, Acceptable Use Agreements and key documents
- A wide range of resources and weblinks for all schools

For further information: <http://www.thegrid.org.uk/eservices/safety/index.shtml>

**Childnet International Film Competition 2011**

The summer film challenge for young people aged 7-16 was launched on Tuesday 26 April 2011. There are separate projects in place for primary and secondary aged children. Once you have registered, you will be emailed a lesson plan, further resources and most importantly, this year's theme! Children will need to think about the theme, decide on how they are going to film their message, keeping it to 60 seconds. The deadline for submission is 5pm on Monday 6th June 2011.



Your school will then be in with a chance of winning! <http://childnet-int.org/film2011/>

**Hertsdirect Parents eSafety Survey**

There are a number of eSafety surveys relating to children but very few involving parents' perceptions of their children's use. We have developed a survey specifically for parents and please do include the link below in your next newsletter. The results will be included in a future newsletter and will help inform our eSafety work with parents, helping engage them in preventative work: [www.hertsdirect.org/services/healthsoc/childfam/childprotection/](http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/healthsoc/childfam/childprotection/)  
If you would like an electronic copy email [esafety@hertsc.gov.uk](mailto:esafety@hertsc.gov.uk)

### **EUKids Online**

Between 2009 – 2011 EU Kids Online conducted research across 25 European countries with national samples of children aged 9-16 years old and their parents. The director of this research was Professor Sonia Livingstone, LSE, who is a leading UK expert in this field. The results for the UK are very informative and can be used by schools together with local data to help inform and promote safe behaviour when online. To give a flavour of the results:

- 29% of 9 – 10 year olds have a social network profile
- 50% of 9 – 16 year olds go online from a mobile device such as mobile phone, iPod Touch, Blackberry.
- 11% of 11-16 year old internet users have received sexual messages, although 4% have sent them!
- 29% of UK children have had contact online with someone they have not met face to face. 4% have gone to an offline meeting with someone first met online.

#### ***Are the above figures true for the pupils in your school?***

To read the full report and other related reports visit:

<http://www2.lse.ac.uk/media@lse/research/EUKidsOnline/Home.aspx>

### **Safer Internet Day 2012**

This event takes place each year during early February and can be added to your school diary in preparation for 2012. The autumn term may be a good time to raise awareness of eSafety across the whole school, culminating with Safer Internet Day.

### **New CEOP Resource**

This hard hitting video called '**Exposed**' was launched on Safer Internet Day in February 2011. The video is designed to be used with secondary pupils aged 14 – 18 years to raise awareness amongst teenagers about sending suggestive images of themselves to others (Sexting)

[http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11\\_16/control/sexting/](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11_16/control/sexting/)

### **Promoting Online Safety at your School**

An essential element of eSafety is raising awareness amongst parents and carers. Prior eSafety work with the children can be on display across the school, promoted during assemblies (with parents invited along), included in newsletters, added to school website and taken home.

We provide parents/ carer awareness sessions during the day or evening. These sessions explore the technologies being used by children and young people, consider the related risks and very importantly provide parents with clear advice to help them keep their children 'Safe Online'. We have a detailed knowledge of national and local eSafety initiatives and developments. All our materials are approved by the eSafety HSCB Multi-agency group

### **eSafety for the whole school community**

We know from discussions with schools and reported incidents that many schools are finding some eSafety incidents challenging to manage. Often incidents happen outside school and involve members of the wider school community who are unaware or unconcerned about the implications of their actions. To support schools we have:

- Sample text that could be added to your Home School Agreement  
**'We will support the school approach to online safety and not deliberately upload or add any images, video, sounds or text that could upset or offend any member of the school community'**
- Incident management flowchart
- Phone and email support which is available at '**No Charge**' to Hertfordshire schools

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

**Ann Layzell, eSafety Adviser**

[ann.layzell@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:ann.layzell@hertscc.gov.uk)

**Chris Seviour, ICT Technical Adviser**

[chris.seviour@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:chris.seviour@hertscc.gov.uk)

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