

eSafety newsletter

Herts
for Learning

Parent edition

Summer 2016



Educate Against Hate

A new website developed by the Home Office and Education Secretary Nicky Morgan is now available. Not only is it a useful resource for parents regarding radicalisation and extremism, it also has very useful links to websites such as NSPCC, Childnet, Internet Matters and more. These websites are all useful for finding out more about keeping your child safe online.

Visit: www.educateagainsthate.com

Will they tell you?

Children are naturally inquisitive. Just because they are looking at an inappropriate image on the internet, doesn't mean that they have done so on purpose. There are situations when this can be deliberate of course, but how should parents react?

It is a very usual and protective reaction to try to remove the danger when this happens. Many parents will take a device away from their child if they are subjected to potentially harmful media or contact, yet this isn't the best way forward. Whilst parents all want to keep their children safe, one of the most important things to ensure is that a child will come back to tell parents about every problem they have when using the internet. Having a memory of mum or dad taking a device away last time they owned up to being in trouble online will normally

Continued on the next page

Children accessing indecent media



The government has opened a consultation to look into the possibility of an age verification requirement before viewing online pornography. This is a step towards making the internet a safer place for children who might currently stumble upon inappropriate media without this added safeguarding measure.

DfE open consultation:

Child Safety Online:

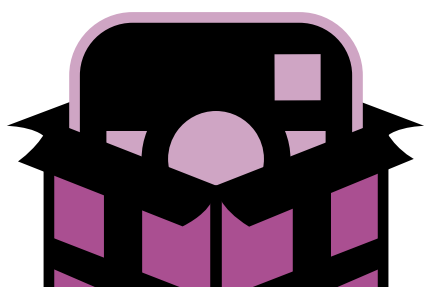
Age Verification for Pornography

result in the child not taking the risk of telling parents the next time. They will keep it to themselves.

One teacher recently reported a survey response by a Year 5 pupil showing that he had seen inappropriate images online but hadn't told his parents. He reasoned that mum wouldn't have let him use the device again if he had told her. It is clear that children expect to have technology removed from them when things go

wrong, so it is important for parents to tell them that this won't happen. More importantly, children need to know this if anything does go wrong.

Parents could take the next opportunity to make it clear that, although they could lose the device until it is made safe again, it will never be taken off the child forever. Parents could also tell their children that they will be proud of them for sharing when things go wrong and they won't be angry.



"I got Instagram for my 10th Birthday"

Frustrating though it may be, many parents are badgered constantly by their children who are asking to do things before they are old enough.

Instagram is used to post photographs to the internet, although there are many other similar apps and websites that can be used

as alternatives. As users can be found just by posting a photograph due to GPS tagging and location services on most mobile devices these days, children are at risk of exploitation if they use this service underage.

In this case the minimum age is 13, yet many children in primary schools have already signed up to this service. It is quite worrying to think that some children do this behind the back of their parents but on some occasions, parents will let their children join early.

If you believe your child may have an account and would like to close it, you can do so by visiting this page for help. It will even tell you about some of the other dangers of using the service underage.

Instagram Help Centre: <http://bit.ly/InHelp>

Non-official school social media pages

Perhaps surprisingly, non-official school social media pages are having a dramatically detrimental effect on the reputation of schools across the world, and Hertfordshire is no exception. Often, well-intended and inoffensive comments get turned by others into discussions about more serious matters which should not be discussed on a public forum.



Please report all concerns directly to a member of staff and do not discuss school issues over social media.

Video sharing

Vine is not a new thing – it allows users to share short videos. The problem for children is the appropriateness of some of the content.

Children like to be popular and it is understandable why they would like to have lots of 'followers' or 'likes' on social media platforms. However, parents are advised to keep an ear out for any new apps that they mention. It could be that a parent has never heard of some of them and if so it is advised to Google them to find out more.

Whilst Vine, like most other social networking sites, is for age 13+, this isn't always immediately apparent in the terms of service. The age restriction is quite far down the lengthy privacy agreement (<https://vine.co/privacy>).

If in doubt, parents and carers can always find out about most services in the A-Z section at <http://parentinfo.org/articles/all>



Useful websites

"I want to make it less likely that my children will get into trouble at home when online"

Find out how to make internet access safer at home on the Internet Matters website:
<http://bit.ly/ParentCont>

"I have found a website that holds illegal content. How do I report it?"

Report illegal website content here:
<https://www.iwf.org.uk>

"I don't want people to see that when they search on the internet"

Find out how to ask Google to remove information from their search results here
<http://bit.ly/RemInfo>

For further eSafety advice visit:
<http://bit.ly/eSafetyAdviceforParents>