eSafety Newsletter Spring 2012

eSafety in Hertfordshire

Our spring term newsletter highlights eSafety issues, trends and resources to help keep your school up-to-date with this continually evolving area of Safeguarding. The news and information is shared with you on behalf of our HSCB 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 us if you would like to discuss any individual issues or receive specific information.

The theme for this annual event is **Connecting Generations** and the slogan is **"Discovering the digital world together safely"**.

There are a range of new resources for primary and secondary schools to download. These include a school assembly presentation, classroom activities and a poster advertising Safer Internet Day **http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day**

To further promote online safety you could:

- Invite parents along to your assembly on the 7th February
- Arrange for pupils to create a class song, rap or short play. This could be titled "How we connect online and why we have fun using the Internet"
- Discuss and debate some of the key eSafety issues
- Hold a grandparents and children eSafety afternoon
- Develop an eSafety group comprising school staff, pupils, governors and parents who will all work together to connect and educate each other.

If you would like to discuss your school and specific ideas please contact Ann Layzell

Video Games Ratings

Pupils of all ages play video games, often online. One of the most popular games this Christmas has been 'Call of Duty'. This game has an age rating of 18 years and over because it contains: *extreme violence, multiple, motiveless killing, violence towards defenceless people, strong language.* The age rating of most games can be found at the Pan European Games Information website **http://www.pegi.info/en/index/global_id/505/?search**

Safer Internet Day and the slogan 'Connecting Generations' could provide schools with a good opportunity to raise awareness of children playing games with an 18 year age rating. Childnet have some excellent resources for parents and carers, including a leaflet about online gaming which can be downloaded from their website **http://www.childnet.com/downloads/Online-gaming.pdf**

Ofsted Report - ICT in Schools 2008-11

This recent report identified that staff training and support for parents should **remain a high priority for schools**. The full report can be found: **http://bit.ly/xpgzkx**

To help keep staff and governors up-to date this newsletter can be circulated. You can also include appropriate sections in your parents' newsletters.   The latest eSafety news can be found by following our Twitter feed **http://www.twitter.com/hertsict** or coming along to a 'Lite Bite' at out National ICT Festival on the 22nd February.   We also provide personalised eSafety training for school staff, governors and parents/carers.

Data security

The latest information on the security of confidential, personal data, including encryption can be found   **http://www.thegrid.org.uk/info/dataprotection/index.shtml#securedata**

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Internet Access from School – Web Filtering

Do you have at least one computer in your school that can access Facebook and Youtube? This can be very helpful when managing eSafety incidents and for teaching online safety, for example enabling you to demonstrate Facebook privacy settings. To find out more about the Hertfordshire Internet Filtered web service visit: **http://www.thegrid.org.uk/eservices/safety/filtered.shtml**
If you would like to arrange for the filtering at your school to be less restrictive and at a baseline level you will need to request WF1. Further details and application details can be found:
http://hics.lea.herts.sch.uk/tech/?page_id=46

Using Facebook and Twitter for School Communication

Many staff, governors, parents and carers have a Facebook account and follow Twitter. Increasingly schools are thinking about how they can safely use these technologies to communicate with parents and carers. Advice and case studies are available on the HGfL:
Twitter   http://www.thegrid.org.uk/learning/ict/technologies/web2.0/twitter/
Facebook http://www.thegrid.org.uk/eservices/safety/social_networking/facebook.shtml

Out of Your Hands – Mobile Phones

Did you know that 1 in 5 children aged 8 – 16 have had their mobile phones stolen? Or that 6% of 10 – 15 year olds have received unwanted and nasty emails, texts, or abusive postings on a social network (such as Facebook). This website **http://www.outofyourhands.com/** has been developed to help educate young people aged 7 to 16 on the responsible way to own, operate and safeguard their mobile phone. There are a range of resources to download that are suitable for use in PSHE, Citizenship, Literacy and ICT plus a section specifically for parents.

Image Policies

Now is the time of year when many schools review their policies. HCC have a model image policy and consent forms which many schools have adapted and use in their setting.
http://www.thegrid.org.uk/info/csf/policies/index.shtml#images

Early Surfers' Zone

This is designed for teachers, parents and carers of **3-7 year olds**, to help introduce young children to the idea of internet safety, in an age-appropriate, fun and engaging way.
http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/teachers/ks1/

Anti- Bullying – Cyberbullying

Increasingly the inappropriate use of technology is often an aspect of bullying - perhaps a racist text message or a video posted online about a pupils appearance. When managing these incidents the best approach is to treat it as bullying and follow your school anti-bullying policy. For further information contact Karin Hutchinson **karin.hutchinson@hertscc.gov.uk** or visit the HGfL anti-bullying section **http://www.thegrid.org.uk/learning/hwb/bullying/index.shtml**

Safeguarding and eSafety in Primary Schools

The TDA recently commissioned Sheffield Hallam University to work with two primary schools researching positive steps to achieving the outstanding grade from Ofsted in regard to safeguarding and eSafety. The findings provide an overview of what works in terms of improving and raising eSafety awareness in primary schools, as well as the barriers and challenges schools may face in trying to implement them. To read the report visit:
http://www.shu.ac.uk/_assets/pdf/improving-esafety-in-primary.pdf

Keeping Up-to-date with eSafety

Have a look at the termly video **http://www.thegrid.org.uk/eservices/videos/index.shtml**
Follow us on Twitter **http://www.twitter.com/hertsict**
Read our latest news page on the HGfL **http://www.thegrid.org.uk/eservices/safety/news.shtml**

For further eSafety advice, resources, training and to report an incident contact:
Ann Layzell, eSafety Adviser   esafety@hertscc.gov.uk
Chris Seviour, ICT Technical Adviser   chris.seviour@hertscc.gov.uk
or visit: **HGfL   http://www.thegrid.org.uk/eservices/safety/index.shtml**