

eSafety Newsletter

Summer term 2015
Parent / Carer edition

In this edition we identify potential risks for your children online and on social media.



Instagram

There is a newly identified danger to young people who click on the hash-tagged key words under posted images. '#fluffy bunny' could be a genuinely harmless link but one parent of a primary aged child recently discovered that it linked directly to pornographic images which their child was unfortunately subjected to before the parent was able to close the page. **Solution:** minimum age 13 years.

Sexting

Sexting can broadly be defined as sexually suggestive text or images sent electronically between two or more people. The latest NSPCC research highlighted by Nicky Morgan suggests that 60% of teenagers have been asked for images or videos online. This issue is not restricted to secondary school children - recently, the BBC reported that '*Children as young as 10 are being reported to police for sharing explicit photos of each other*'.

Sexting is pornographic in nature, permanent and damaging for those involved. Parents must be aware of the dangers and act appropriately to ensure that their children are made aware of the dangers of participating. Schools will also deliver this message to help manage the risk.

<http://www.nspcc.org.uk/sexting>

There have been some recent changes to CEOP's www.thinkuknow.co.uk and it is worth revisiting the website to see what's new.



Snapchat

Whilst still a thorn in the side of schools and parents alike, in trying to shake off their 'sexting' reputation, Snapchat has now released 'Safety Center'. Despite this move, we all still need to make young people aware that 13 yrs remains the minimum age.

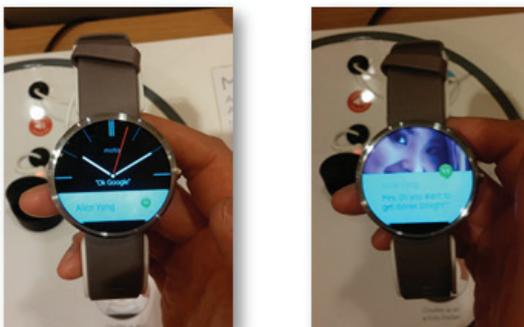
Snapchat Safety Center (U.S.)...

Safety is a shared responsibility. If you need assistance, please contact Team Snapchat through our [Abuse and Safety center](#).



Smart watches

The latest threat...



slide from HfL Parents' esafety session

Android smartwatches are already on the market – and at circa £100-200 they are potential Christmas presents this year. Apple will shortly follow with their own version (although substantially more costly). Apps with age restrictions can be downloaded onto the smart watch but there is no age restriction for the device itself. **Cyberbullying & grooming risk:** this wearable device puts children at risk 24 hours a day; messages can wake them in the night. **Solution:** in the short term, poor battery longevity means daily charging – remove the device at bedtime and charge in a 'family space'.

This video chat and instant messaging client has been around since 2007 in a format similar to Skype and FaceTime. Since late 2014 however, multiple additional platforms were added to their service, which can now provide simultaneous video conferencing for up to 12 people. Age restriction is not discussed within their FAQs yet 13 yrs+ is clearly stated in the T&Cs. **Grooming Risk:** children tend to feel there is safety in numbers. Consequently they might video chat with up to 10 other friends and still have the capacity to include a stranger in their conversation. A recent incident resulted in police intervention after a stranger continued to contact individuals after an initial 'chat' online – and the young person agreed to meet up with them. A record and repeat or 'play again' feature brings added risks. **Solution:** online grooming information is available <http://www.childline.org.uk/Explore/OnlineSafety/Pages/Online-grooming.aspx>

2015 ooVoo platforms

iOS

Android

Mac OS X

Microsoft Windows

PlayStation 4

Windows Phone

Microsoft family safety

Windows 7 and 8 have a little-known feature which you can use to keep your children safer. Family Safety 'provides a website and a free program that you install on the PCs your kids use, so you can give them some independence but still keep tabs on their activities. Family Safety can also help keep your kids off websites that you don't want them looking at, and only let them talk to the people who you're OK with them talking to.'

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-GB/windows/set-up-family-safety#set-up-family-safety=windows-7>

Teachers are victims of trolling and offensive social media

School staff are not immune to the effects of negative social media. <http://www.theguardian.com/education/2014/apr/21/teachers-abused-online-parents-pupils> Please discuss the importance of acceptable online behaviour with your children.

For eSafety advice & training visit:

<http://www.thegrid.org.uk/eservices/safety/training/index.shtml>

Herts for Learning Summer Term 2015