E-SAFETY NOW

This newsletter is from Tim Pinto for schools and safeguarding practitioners. I am happy for schools to use this information on newsletters and websites. I ask that any other organisation contacts me about using any of the articles in the newsletter.

IT IS NOT JUST ABOUT APPS

During the year, I often get contacted about whether specific Apps are safe. The advice I give is that no App which is marketed towards adults is safe to use by children. However, the problem is educating adults and children about the fact that they need to be cautious about downloading and using Apps.

Whilst some online safety organisations provide regular information about Apps and settings, the most important way to address online safeguarding issues is about changing behaviour. Fundamentally, this starts at home and parents need to look at the way that they address their parenting skills

When I deliver my online safety sessions to parents, I aways start with looking at the basic ways that we protect our children e.g. teaching them to cross the road. In order for parents to look at a more holistic approach, rather than just dealing with alerts about apps, here are some useful tips for schools to share:

New Devices - Before you give a new device to you child, set it up to restrict what they can do with it. Many devices now have parental controls built in. If it is second hand, then restore it to factory settings.

App/Game Check - You can set up devices so that when a child wants to download a new App, they have to enter a passcode (which only the parent knows). Parents can then search for more info about the App.

Filtering - Whilst filtering is not 100% effective, it can offer further piece of mind to parents wanting to limit what their children can access.

Digital Time - Parents spend time reading with their children and it is advised that they sit down with them and find out more about Apps and on line safety together. Schools could issue tasks to promote this.

Talk - The most important action any parent can take is to talk to their child about using technology and don't let it become a 'digital dummy'

TEACHING ONLINE SAFETY IN SCHOOLS

In June the government released a guide on 'Teaching Online Safety In Schools'. It is a useful document which gives advice on teaching the following areas including:

- Phishing
- Grooming
- Age Restrictions
- Challenges
- Unsafe Communications

It also includes links to national organisations and statutory documents released by the government. It is available here: https://bit.ly/2XwuTSE

LGFL -ONLINE FACT OR FALLACY

This is not an actual resource, but a blog post which includes 10 videos looking at what we say when teaching online safety and the actual reality of the situation might actually be.

The videos have been created by London Grid For Learning and they discuss the fact that areas of online safety have now become really complex and that we have to think carefully about how we discuss them with children in the classroom.

I would use them as a staff development tool to make staff think about how they deliver online safety: https://safeblog.lgfl.net/2019/06/online-safety-facts-or-fallacies/

BACK2SCHOOL CAMPAIGN

The Diana Awards have released a new campaign on anti-bullying (Back2School). It includes a number of videos of celebrities, sports stars and others talking about how they felt when they started school and the ways that they dealt with bullying. James McVey (the singer from The Vamps) talks about how he was targeted on social media and this is a useful resource to use in discussions on cyberbullying. It is available here: https://back2school.antibullyingpro.com/

PLAYS ON THE INTERNET

Plusnet have created a number of plays which can be used in schools by teachers and youth groups about online safety. The resources includes a guide and script for the plays and they are split into three:

Never Trust An Alien (8-11 yr olds)
The Ghosts Of The Internet (11-14 yr olds)
Say what you mean, and mean what you say (14+)

They are available here: https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/plusnet-plays-

IN CASE YOU MISSED…

Jessie & Friends CEOP related a resource for 4-7 year olds earlier this year. Further information is available here: https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/jessie-and-friends-videos/

Mr Shapeshifter This was a free resource funded by the West Yorkshire Crime Commissioner: https://www.mrshapeshifter.com/

SOCIAL MEDIA ADDICTION

A recent book by a silicon valley worker (Jaron Lanier) explained how social media works. He used the concept of behaviour modification which relates to the idea that you can train someone by rewarding them after they complete an action. It works with animals, by giving them a food treat, if they complete a trick.

If you think about that in relation to technology, Lanier explains that people can easily become addicted to social media and games as the instant rewards through 'likes' or shiny coin rewards gives people that instant 'buzz'. This is the neurological process in the brain that is related to pleasure and the response of getting rewards.

His argument is that 'likes', 'Instagram influencers' and 'retweets' have now become the new reward that has become so addictive and with this, people lose touch with the real world and real people.

As you can see from the quote, the real question relates to children. If the social media sites and tech companies can get children addicted from an early age, then this will mean that the young people of today will become the customers of tomorrow.

When we look at the media trends of children and young people, we see a generation who love using technology. Whilst there may be nothing wrong with this, it will be interesting what future OFCOM reports will show and whether Lanier's predictions are correct and that the concept of social validation is a plan to get people hooked.

" We need to sort of give you a little dopamine hit every once in a while, because someone liked or commented on a photo or a post or whatever...Its like a social validation loop... God only knows what its doing to our children's brains"

Sean Parker – First President of Facebook

NEW WEBSITE

My new website has gone live https://esafetyoffice.co.uk/ It now contains a new resource area which includes FREE resources for parents on:

- Screentime
- You Tube
- Cyberbullying
- Internet Filtering
- Cyberbullying
- Video Games
- Safe Selfies
- Parental Controls

More resources will be uploaded on a monthly basis. I am more than happy for schools to link to the page or for schools to download and hand these resources to parents.

In addition, there are also staff resources which can be downloaded for free. Also, there is information about the different services that I offer.

I would just like to promote Webcetra who designed my site. If you want a new site for your school, then please see here:
https://webcetera.co.uk/

E-SAFETY SANTA

E-Safety Santa will be returning this December. Santa will visit your school and talk to children about be safe with any new presents they receive. It is suitable for EYFS, KS1 and Year 3 and costs £120 + travel. Dates available are 3, 4, 10-13, 16-19 December.

E-SAFETY UPDATE 2019 CPD

I am running half day courses in September/October on E-Safety. The topics covered are:

- Do you have the correct online safety policies in place?
- OFSTED Framework 2019 and online safety
- Free resources to help you with your planning
- Relationships & Sex Education and e-safety
- Engaging with parents about online safety

The courses are from 9.15am-12.15pm and the cost is £49 per delegate:

The dates/venue are:
Fri, 20th Sept   Scunthorpe
Fri, 27th Sept   Barnsley
Fri, 4th Oct   Rotherham
Fri, 11th Oct   Ripon
Fri, 18th Oct   Doncaster

Places are limited and all delegates will receive a resource pack, certificate and access to electronic resources. You can book online at: https://bookwhen.com/esafetyoffice or by emailing tpinto@esafetyoffice.co.uk

ONLINE CPD

My online courses are now available. They take about 25 minutes to complete and cost £2.50 per member of staff (minimum purchase 10 staff). The courses are:
- E-Safety For School Staff
- Data Protection For School Staff
- Data Protection for School Governors

Diary Dates:

Anti-Bullying Week 11-15 November 2019: https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/anti-bullying-week-2019-change-starts-us

The theme this year is 'Change Starts With Us' : Whether it is verbal, physical, online or in-person, bullying has a significant impact on a child's life well in to adulthood. By making small, simple changes, we can break this cycle and create a safe environment for everyone. Because together, we can challenge bullying. Change starts with a conversation. It starts with checking in. It starts with work together.

Safer Internet Day Tuesday, 11 February 2020 :
 https://www.saferinternetday.org/web/sid/home

Theme: Together for a better internet

Keeping Children Safe In Education

A useful article relating to the online elements of the new KCSIE document is available here:
https://www.theeducationpeople.org/blog/online-safety-within-keeping-children-safe-in-education-2019/

Age Verification

The age verification date has been delayed. More details here: https://www.ageverificationregulator.com/

ABOUT TIM PINTO

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- E-Safety Manager for Yorkshire Humber Grid For Learning
- Online Safety Manager for Rotherham Council
- Member of Education Advisory Board for Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre (CEOP)
- Associate Lecturer - Sheffield Hallam University
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