Ashmole Academy

Knowsley
City Learning Centres

Online Safety Newsletter   June 2020

YouTube

Are you concerned about your child using YouTube? Inappropriate content can be found on YouTube, there are some steps that you can take to make it a safer environment:

- Turn on Restricted mode – this mode restricts the availability of mature content.
- Sit with your child and see what they are watching or set rules that devices can only be used in family areas.
- Ensure your child knows how to report inappropriate content.
- Make sure your child understands that they can talk to you if they see anything that makes them feel uncomfortable online.

YouTube Kids (for children 12 and under)is also available with the option to select the shows you prefer your child to watch, however inappropriate content has also been found on here too.

To post videos on YouTube, you should be over 13 years of age. YouTube have produced these tips for those that do upload content: https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/2802244?hl=en-GB

Further information
- https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/youtube-tips-and-tricks-to-keep-your-children-entertained-and-safe/

Online Gaming: risks

Ofcom's latest report on media use shows 35% of children aged 5 – 7 are playing games online, this rises to 66% of 8 – 11 year olds and 72% of 12 – 15 year olds.* There are risks associated with playing games online, one of these being that many games such as FIFA, Fortnite, Minecraft and Call of Duty (COD) feature chat facilities. This heightens the risk of bullying and potentially online grooming as some people may use the online chat features to build a relationship with your child. For some games, the chat can be turned off and depending on the age of your child, this may be the safest manner for your child to play games online.

What can I do?

Review what games your children are playing and check the PEGI rating (age rating). Should your child be playing that game? As always talk to your child about what they are playing and discuss the following points:
- Do they know how to report and block players?
- Encourage them not to share personal information online. If somebody asks them for personal information, to meet up or if they just feel uneasy then make sure that they know that they should talk to a trusted adult.
- Tell your child that they should be very wary of anybody who encourages them to keep anything secret or who offers to buy them gifts.
- Talk to your child about the importance of only accepting friends.

If somebody does do anything inappropriate then you should report that person using the in game reporting options. If you think somebody has tried to groom your child online then you can report this to CEOP. CEOP can help in a number of ways, for example they can assist you if you are worried that your child is being groomed online or if somebody is asking your child to communicate with them on a live-streaming platform. (https://www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting/).

Further information about Grooming:

- https://parentinfo.org/article/what-you-need-to-know-about-online-grooming
- https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/briefings/grooming

*(*source: https://www.ofcom.org.uk/research-and-data/media-literacy-research/childrens/children-and-parents-media-use-and-attitudes-report-2019*).

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 1.6.20.

Online Safety ⟩ Let's talk

It's really important to regularly chat to your child about their online lives but it can sometimes be difficult to start these conversations. We thought these resources may help you to start these conversations:

- https://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Let's-talk-about-life-online.pdf
- https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/

Instagram ⟩ update

Instagram is used to post photos and videos. Users can also DM (direct message), send disappearing messages, add to their stories (these disappear after 24 hours) and broadcast using IGTV. **You should be over 13 years of age to set up an account.** You should be aware that Instagram have released the following new features:
- The ability to delete up to 25 unwanted (negative) comments all at once as well as block or restrict multiple accounts at the same time.
- As tags and mentions can be used to target or bully, you can now choose whether you want everyone, only people you follow or no one to be able to tag or mention you in a comment, caption or story.

Further information
- Read about the new features in more detail here: https://about.instagram.com/blog/announcements/continuing-our-work-to-fight-online-bullying/
- More tips from Instagram including how to manage privacy: https://help.instagram.com/154475974694511

Zoom ⟩ reminder

There has been a recent 'zoombombing' incident in Plymouth where children were exposed to distressing content**. Zoombombing is a term resulting from those users who are entering meetings uninvited to post inappropriate content.

You can read further steps to follow as a host or participant to try and reduce this happening here: http://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Online-Safety-Newsletter_Zoom.pdf

(**Source: https://thecpsu.org.uk/news/2020-05-nspcc-warns-of-zoom-security-risks/)

The revised Childnet Film Competition

The Childnet Film Competition is now in its 11th year and is open to all young people based in the UK. The challenge is to create a positive, short online safety film or a storyboard with a script. The competition closes 22nd June 2020. Further information is available here:

https://www.childnet.com/resources/film-competition/2020

Is social media a concern for you?

This is an interesting short video for you to watch looking at the fear parents may have around social media. This page also includes further links to resources around social media:

https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-advice-hub/

Thinking critically

We need to develop digital literacy skills in our children by encouraging them to think critically of what they read online and fact checking. This blog contains some practical tips to help develop these skills:

https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/news-literacy-101