Online Safety Newsletter

Ofcom: March 2023
Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes

Ofcom have released a report into media use, attitudes and understanding among children aged 3-17. It also includes findings on parents' views about their children's media use, and how parents of children aged 3-17 monitor and manage their children's online activity. Access the full report here:

https://www.ofcom.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0027/255852/childrens-media-use-and-attitudes-report-2023.pdf

Information about the report

- 97% of children have internet access at home in 2022.
- 89% of children played video games
- 25% played games with people they didn't know.
- 22% talked to people they didn't know.

Parents/carers mostly worried about their child:

- Seeing age-inappropriate content.
- Being cyberbullied
- Seeing pro self-harm content
- Giving out personal details
- Having data collected by companies.

WHO'S LOOKING AFTER THE CHILDREN? & SOCIAL MEDIA DILEMMA

In this newsletter edition I would like all parents to start by watching the following two films relating to what's behind social media and how it can impact the way we bring up our children.

Mrs Sadler (Online Safety and Computing Subject Leader)

Who's looking after children?

A recently published video by the Financial Times, gives an important insight to the impact of social media on our children and our family life. The video is well worth a watch as a parent to consider how you talk to your children about, their social media use. You can find the video on YouTube by following the link below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UY2HOpuTlk

Social Media Dilemma Official Trailer

This documentary-drama hybrid explores the dangerous human impact of social networking, with tech experts sounding the alarm on their own creations.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uaaC57tcci0

ONLINE GAMING

Online Gaming is becoming increasingly popular with primary school children and last half term during lessons, the children were sharing the potential risks and different behaviours they have encountered when online. Please spend time talking to your children about the following poster from Internet Matters.

Internet Matters six tips for keeping children safe while online gaming
internet matters.org

1. Take an active interest in the games your children are playing to get to grips with how they work and why they enjoy playing them

2. Ask **who they play with online, who they meet and talk to**, and talk about what kind of language is being used. Make sure your child knows how to do report abusive or anti-social behaviour

   REPORT

3. For younger children, use 'airplane' **mode settings** on your tablet or smartphone. That way, they can play offline without making accidental purchases or connecting with someone they don't know

4. Use PEGI ratings and App store ratings to ensure your children are playing age appropriate games. **Help children understand why some games are allowed and others aren't**

5. Gaming can be very addictive, so **agree boundaries and how long they're allowed to play** for and with whom they are allowed to play online with. Remind them that people may hide behind fake profiles and not be who they say they are

6. Teach your children to protect themselves by **thinking critically** – remind them not to share personal information and to keep gaming friends in the game only rather than adding them to their other social networks

   SupaUnicornLolz added you as a friend
   ADD?

Poster: From Internet Matters

https://www.internetmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Internet-Matters-Tips-Keeping-children-safe-while-online-gaming.pdf

Further information about online gaming:

https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-gaming-advice/the-basics/

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-games/

TIPS for Safer Gaming

Games are a great way for children to stay busy and stay in touch with friends and family. However, there are things to consider if your child plays games online.

- Age ratings (refer to PEGI age ratings).
- Messaging and contact functions within the game.
- Talking to people they don't know.
- In-app/game purchases
- Trolling, griefing and scams. Cyberbullying and use of bad language.
- Know how to report or block any problems.

Check:

- The age rating
- The games content
- The chat function
- How to change the game's settings
- Any difference or changes in your child's behaviour or sleep
- Agree gaming time
- Talk regularly to your child and watch them play their game
- Make a family agreement