ONLINE SAFETY NEWS

Summer 2022

ISP
school

#AskTheAwkward

This is a new resource from Thinkuknow for parents/carers of secondary age children however could be beneficial for those with younger children.

Talking regularly with your child about relationships and sex can help develop shared understanding, trust and support between you. Talk little. Talk often. Ask The Awkward.

#AskTheAwkward aims to help parents and carers have regular conversations with their children about online relationships and explores the importance of online spaces at all stages of a relationship.

The resource includes three short films created in a social experiment style with parents and their children to capture their reactions to a range of questions. A set of help sheets give essential information on nine key topics, to help parents and carers understand more about the themes raised in the films. They also provide links to further information and conversation starters on each topic.

Visit www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/ask-the-awkward/

INTERNETMATTERS.ORG

Three new resources to be aware of:

1. Online money management As more children and young people start to spend money online through gaming and social media platforms Internet matters have created a guide to help parents and carers equip them with the skills they need to do this smartly and safely.

www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-money-management-guide/

2. Tackling fake news and misinformation Get practical tips to empower your child to recognise what fake news is and how to stop the spread of it.

www.internetmatters.org/issues/fake-news-and-misinformation-advice-hub/

3. The online together project. A new interactive tool that encourages children to take part in building a positive and inclusive culture online – focussing on gender stereotypes. Take a short quiz with your child to help them recognise how gender stereotypes can impact them in online spaces and encourage them to respect and celebrate differences.

Visit www.internetmatters.org/issues/fake-news-and-misinformation-advice-hub/

'SQUID GAME' – WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

The National Online Safety hub has produced a free guide for parents and carers which explores the potential risks of Squid Game for children. Squid Game is an extremely popular series on Netflix and has a 15-age rating. Even if children don't have access to Netflix, they could come across games with similar challenges on platforms such as Roblox, Tik Tok, Discord or YouTube.

Visit: www.nationalonlinesafety.com/wakeupwednesday/squid-game-trending-across-platforms-what-parents-need-to-know

The guidance states: 'As a parent or carer, keep a watchful eye on the content that your children are viewing. Speak to them openly and chat about how they have been spending time on their devices; let them ask questions, too. Ensure that the parental controls are activated on your child's device and that age restricted child profiles are properly set up any on-demand services available through the family TV (such as Netflix, in this case) to prevent inappropriate content being streamed.

If you see your child replicating the challenges from the show or hear them talking about scenes and characters from Squid Game, it would be a timely opportunity to discuss with them that the programme is not intended for children, that much of the content would be inappropriate for their age, and that the violence in the series is very realistic and often upsetting.'

ONLINE GROOMING AND REPORTING ONLINE SEXUAL ABUSE

The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (CEOP) helps keep children safe from online grooming. Grooming is a word used to describe people befriending children in order to take advantage of them for sexual purposes. If you suspect it is an adult who is in contact with your child, and they are behaving inappropriately then you should report this to the CEOP - https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/

A summary of what parents need to know about online grooming can be found at:

https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/online-grooming/learn-about-it/

The links below contain a range of further information and age appropriate resources to help keep children safe from child sexual exploitation:

4–7 years: www.thinkuknow.co.uk/4_7

8-10 years: www.thinkuknow.co.uk/8_10

11–18 years: www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11_18

Parents/Carers: www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

KEEPING UNDER 5'S SAFE ONLINE

Whilst we recognise our cohort commences from aged 7, we do appreciate that our families often have younger children too therefore the following information may prove useful:

It's never too early to start taking action to keep your child safe online. As soon as your child starts talking about or exploring the online world, you should start conversations with them about their online activity and put support in place.

Visit https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/keeping-your-under-five-safe-online/ to read their article which looks at the benefits of children accessing the internet and how to make sure your children have a safe experience online.

- Explore together
- Talk to your child about their online experiences
- Supervise your under 5 while they're online
- Parental controls
- SafeSearch
- Set boundaries
- Lead by example

This newsletter has been produced based on information provided through www.thinkuknow.co.uk therefore is as reliable as I can provide as of the date of the publication of this newsletter: June 2022.

If we can support you, your family or children with any issues relating to online safety please do contact one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads:

Caroline.belchem@ispschools.org.uk

Amelia.stoner@ispschools.org.uk

Beverley.curtis@ispschools.org.uk