Online Reputation

Young people are now growing up online so may be posting information which in the past would have been written in their secret diary. These thoughts, opinions and activities provide a window into their lives at a time when jobs and responsibility might be far from their minds.

Posting things online means that there are permanent records of these highs and lows which, if not controlled carefully, may be accessible to future employers, universities/colleges or friends.

Young people should think carefully about what they share, where they share it and who they share it with. What seems to be a good idea now may not be in the future.

There are real advantages in maintaining an open dialogue with your child about their internet use and online activity. Not sure where to begin? These conversation starter suggestions may help...

① Ask your child to tell you about the websites and apps they like to use and what they enjoy doing online.

② Ask them about how they stay safe online. What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them? What is OK and not OK to share?

③ Ask them if they know where to go for help, where to find safety advice, privacy settings and how to report or block on the services they use.

④ Think about how you each use the internet. What more could you do to use the internet together? Are there any activities that you could enjoy as a family?

Further Advice and Resources:

www.childnet.com
www.saferinternet.org.uk
www.ceop.police.uk

E-SAFETY
Information for Parents

CALDEW SCHOOL

The Purpose of This Guide

Children of today are increasingly using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in schools and at home.

This guide explains:

➢ How your child may be using ICT

➢ The risks that young people now face online

➢ How the internet can be used safely

➢ Where to access further information

Our Children Are Growing Up Online

As your child grows up and becomes more independent, it is natural that they take this independence online. We explore, try new things, push boundaries and take risks in our teenage years and this is a natural part of growing up.

Technology offers so much potential and young people now have access to huge opportunities through the internet. Online, they can express themselves, be creative and explore. For everyone, the internet has changed the way we communicate. Indeed, the internet has not only changed the lives of our children, it's changed the lives of us all and our children are growing up during this change. Many of the things that confuse us are part of the everyday for them and this can all be a bit too much.

Whether you're a technophobe or a technophile, it's likely that you'll be playing catch-up with the way your child is using the internet.

You may wonder whether what your child is doing online is safe. You may also be thinking *how can I be as good a parent online as I am offline?*

Top Tips

- Know what devices connect to the internet and how
- Be involved in your child's online life
- Keep up-to-date with your child's development online
- Watch Thinkuknow films to learn more (www.thinkuknow.co.uk)
- Set boundaries online just as you would in the real world
- Consider the use of parental controls on devices that link to the internet, such as TVs, laptops, computers, games consoles and mobile 'phones
- Emphasise that online, not everyone is who they say they are
- Know what to do if something goes wrong
- Know who to contact if you have any concerns
- Let your child teach you
- Reach an agreement

Risks Children May Face

There are as many risks online as there are offline and it's important to teach your child how to navigate them.

Cyberbullying

This is when someone uses the internet or technology to bully someone else. Because the internet can be used everywhere, this type of bullying can affect young people at school and at home. Sometimes it can be hard to identify who the bully is because they are able to hide their identity by blocking their number and emailing or posting things on websites anonymously. If your child has experienced cyberbullying, make sure that they:

- Do not respond to the bully
- Block contact with the bully
- Save relevant communication, such as texts, emails or webpages
- Report the incident to the service-provider or website host, the school or the police as appropriate

Grooming

This is a term that you may have heard of previously. Grooming is a process used by people with a sexual interest in children to attempt to engage them in sexual acts either online or in person. Unfortunately, these people often attempt to make contact with children via the internet, through social networking sites, chat rooms or games. They could also pretend to be someone else. It is important your child knows that there are people like this online and that they shouldn't do anything (online or offline) that they are uncomfortable with. If you suspect your child is being groomed you can report it directly to the CEOP via the Safety Centre - www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/

Losing Ownership of Photographs and Videos

Photos and videos can be copied, shared and spread at great speed. What may start as a few photos between friends can very quickly end up in the hands of the whole school and beyond. It's important to remember that when a photo or video is uploaded online, you lose ownership immediately. It then belongs to the website host.

Some young people have posted or sent sexualised photos of themselves to a boyfriend or girlfriend and found them shared further.

It is important that privacy settings are appropriate when using social networking sites and that young people are aware of the consequences of posting or sending photos online or via mobile devices.