



ADVICE FOR PARENTS

Summary from School Liaison Police session to parents



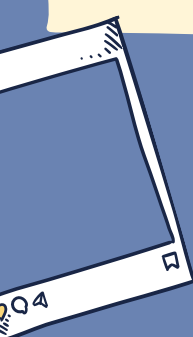
Talk openly to your child about the apps he/she has access to. Be aware of the age restrictions on different apps and discuss the reasons for this. Research the apps your child wants to download/use - who can your child connect with and who can connect with your child? Get your child to seek permission before downloading new apps to his/her phone or device. Discuss your expectations and rules around accessing apps.



You have a right to check your child's phone. The majority of parents buy and pay for their child's phone or device - that makes it your property. Most devices require to be linked to a legally recognised email address - this would be a parent or adult until the age of 16. Checking the activity on your child's device keeps them safe and allows you to monitor and act on any inappropriate behaviour online.



Speak openly to your child about the dangers of posting things that are inappropriate - this could be messages, images or photos. Once something has been posted your child had no control over who sees it. It can be shared and re-posted hundreds of times in the space of a very short time.



Parental controls can be placed not only on devices but also on the apps and games your child uses. This could include restricting access to set times, linking your device to your child's device and blocking or turning off certain features. 'Safe' sites or child friendly apps/sites can still be susceptible inappropriate material being seen. Speak to your child about the dangers of clicking on links that pop up or are sent to them. These can expose your child to inappropriate material. Speak to your child about being open with you about links they are sent or inappropriate material they might see. These can be reported to the police and investigated.



Taking and sharing photos or videos without consent is a criminal offence. Messages that are negative, harmful or deliberately hurtful are classed as cyber bullying. Speak openly to your child - encourage him/her to tell you if this happens. Take screen shots of offensive messages/images. Parents can contact the police to seek advice or report this.

