Safer Schools & Young Persons Partnership News:

Protect yourself online:

·   Only accept friend requests and other types of communication from people who you know and trust.

·   Adjust your privacy settings so that you are in control of your profile and you know who is able to view it.

·   Be aware that Facebook, Twitter and other forms of social media usually have some form of age restriction; Facebook for example is 13 years and upwards.

·   If you are unfortunate enough to become a victim of online bullying, be sure to block the communications from the person sending them to you and report them to the site administrators.

Advice for parents:

  Try to put the computer in an easy to see place in the home so that you can monitor what sites your child is visiting

  Check out the websites your child is using, just like you'd check out a school or a youth group they might visit. Have a look and make a judgement whether you think it is a safe environment for them to be involved in.

  Set up reasonable guidelines and limits for internet usage. Understand that it may be a big part of their life but that it needs to be regulated

  Explain to your children why it is important for them never to give out personal details or post pictures of themselves publicly, just like you would when you explain to them not to talk to strangers.

To find out more about keeping safe online go to https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/

Or visit: Resources and ideas for activities for parents and professionals aimed at EYFS and KS1 http://kidsmart.org.uk

Don't be a money Mule

Students are being recruited, sometimes unwittingly, as "mules" by criminals to transfer illegally obtained money between different bank   accounts.

  What is a money mule?   A money mule is someone who is recruited by those needing to launder money obtained illegally. Criminals advertise fake jobs in newspapers and on the internet in a number of ways, usually offering opportunities to make money quickly, in order to lure potential money mule recruits. These include:

  Social media posts

Copying genuine company's websites to create impression of legitimacy

Sending mass emails offering employment

Targeting individuals that have posted their CVs on employment websites

Students are particularly susceptible to adverts of this nature. For someone in full-time education, the opportunity for making money quickly can understandably be an attractive one.

The mule will accept money into their bank account, before following further instructions on what to do with the funds. Instructions could include transferring the money into a separate specified account or withdrawing the cash and forwarding it on via money transfer service companies like Western Union or MoneyGram. The mule is generally paid a small percentage of the funds as they pass through their account.

Money Laundering is a criminal offence which can lead to prosecution and a custodial sentence. Furthermore, it can lead to the mule being unable to obtain credit in the UK and prevented from holding a bank account.

Protect Yourself

Be aware that the offence of money laundering carries a maximum prison sentence, in the UK, of 14 years.

Never give the details of your bank account to anyone that you do not trust.

No legitimate company will ever ask you to use your own bank account to transfer their money. Don't accept any job offers that ask you to do this.

Be wary of unsolicited emails or social media posts promising ways of earning easy money. If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.

Don't be afraid to question the legitimacy of any businesses that make you a job offer, especially if the recruitment procedure strays from the conventional.

Points to note:

Age restrictions are not followed, with many young people lying about their age to enable access to sites. Many sites are peer led and due to this more and more young people are signing onto the sites without reading the policies and agreements that are attached to them. They want it now so that they can have instant access 24/7 to their friends – many opening accounts without parental knowledge. All accessed via phones, tablets, computers, laptops, and all online gaming consoles. Obvious Issues / concerns that are attached with these sites are Bullying, self harming, suicide, sexting, grooming, trolling, the list goes on.

Child safety lines receive calls on a daily basis from the schools and families all seeking advice on how to deal with incidents that are being brought into schools due to the young people being on the sites late at night and in some cases 24/7 . If you have not already done so, can I suggest that you visit / signpost to https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/share-aware/https://www.net-aware.org.uk/#

YouTube

YouTube is a place to watch, create and share videos. You can create your own YouTube account, make a music playlist, and even create your own channel, which means you will have a public profile, and it allows you to comment on videos and create video playlists. For younger children there is a Younow.com. The participants believe they have control of videos, in that they can decide IF and for how long, videos are available on the website. However there are any number of software packages which can record, edit and save 'what is happening on the screen' including video feeds.http://parentinfo.org/article/a-parents-guide-to-younow   www.parentinfo.org

Snapchat - Snapchat is a photo messaging application developed by Evan Spiegel, Bobby Murphy, and Reggie Brown,[3] then Stanford University students.[4][5][6] Using the application, users can take photos, record videos, add text and drawings, and send them to a controlled list of recipients. These sent photographs and videos are known as "Snaps". Users set a time limit for how long recipients can view their Snaps (as of April 2014, the range is from 1 to 10 seconds),[7] after which they will be hidden from the recipient's device and deleted from Snapchat's servers.

According to Snapchat in May 2014, the app's users were sending 700 million photos and videos per day, while Snapchat Stories content was being viewed 500 million times per day

Instagram

Instagram is an online mobile photo-sharing, video-sharing and social networking service that enables its users to take pictures and videos, and share them on a variety of social networking platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr and Flickr.[8] A distinctive feature is that it confines photos to a square shape, similar to Kodak Instamatic and Polaroid images, in contrast to the 4:3 aspect ratio typically used by mobile device cameras. Users can also apply digital filters to their images. The maximum duration for Instagram videos is 15 seconds

Twitter

Twitter is an online social networking service that enables users to send and read short called "tweets".Registered users can read and post tweets, but unregistered users can only read them.

Facebook - After registering to use the site, users can create a User profile, add other users as "friends", exchange messages, post status updates and photos, share videos and receive notifications when others update their profiles. Additionally, users may join common-interest user groups, organized by workplace, school or college, or other characteristics, and categorize their friends into lists such as "People From Work" or "Close Friends". Facebook had over 1.3 billion active users as of June 2014.

Ask.FM -Ask.fm is a social networking site where users can invite questions from other users on the site or from anonymous users. The site was launched on June 16, 2010. Tiny chat: Online webcam chat with adults and a lot of adult content but the name would suggest its for young people!

Omegle - Omegle is a free online chat website that allows users to communicate with strangers without registering. The service randomly pairs users in one-on-one chat sessions where they chat anonymously using the handles "You" and "Stranger"   The site now provides a mobile application

that lets users chat with strangers from mobile devices. It should also be noted that the site has many problematic users, making it unsafe for children who will encounter sexual content on an almost continuous basis

Oovoo - ooVoo is a video chat and instant messaging client developed by ooVoo LLC for Microsoft Windows, Windows Phone, Mac OS X,[1] Android, iOS and Facebook. It was released in 2007, and is similar in some respects to Microsoft's Skype

Facetime- FaceTime is a videotelephony – and from September 2013 also voice over IP

Habbo (previously known as Habbo Hotel)- Habbo allows users to create their own Habbo character and design hotel rooms, meet new friends, chat with other players, organize parties, look after virtual pets, create and play games and complete quests.

Kik Messenger- Kik Messenger is an instant messaging application for mobile devices. The app is available on most iOS, Android, and Windows Phone operating systems free of charge.[1] Kik Messenger is modelled after BlackBerry's Messenger.

[2] Kik uses a smartphone's data plan or Wi-Fi to transmit and receive messages.[3] Kik also allows users to share photos, sketches, mobile webpages, and other content. Kik Messenger requires users to register a username.

Whatsapp- WhatsApp Messenger is a proprietary, cross-platform instant messaging subscription service for smartphones and selected feature phones that uses the internet for communication. In addition to text messaging, users can send each other images, video, and audio media messages as well as their location using integrated mapping features.

Hot or Not- Hot or Not began as a rating site that allowed users to rate the attractiveness of photos submitted voluntarily by others. The site offers a matchmaking engine called 'Meet Me' and an extended profile feature called "Hotlists".

Bebo- Users receive a personal profile page where they can post blogs, photographs, music, videos, and questionnaires, which other users may answer. Additionally, users may add others as friends and send them messages, and update their personal profiles to notify friends about themselves.[1]

Other sites accessed by our young people but not as well known amongst them - Sims free play, Minion Rush, Minecraft, Emoji 2, Tinder Skype , Timehop – linked to FACEBOOK, Yik Yak, Pandora / I tunes / Spotify ,Tumblr, SnapSave, Viber, Tinda/Topface, Talking Tom, Talking Angela, App Chat , FML, Meetme, Steam

NSPCC - NSPCC have launched a new campaign, Listen To Your Selfie, which aims to teach young people about online sexual abuse and what constitutes a healthy relationship. The campaign, which has been funded by BBC Children in Need, features two films where selfies come to life and question a situation – The Game focuses on a same-sex online grooming scenario, and The Party highlights peer-to-peer sexual pressure and grooming. CEO Peter Wanless said: "Most of us talk to people online and it's a great way to stay connected and make new friends. But it can be a playground for paedophiles, exposing young people to groomers who trawl social networks and online game forums exploiting any vulnerability they may find. Young people may not understand what is right or wrong

in a relationship, or what to do if something makes them feel uncomfortable, online or offline. 'Listen To Your Selfie' is aimed at helping young people recognise signs they are being manipulated, controlled or exploited so they feel empowered to make their own decisions or choices. We hope that by putting this in the spotlight we can help young people to feel able to speak up if they feel worried or scared about a situation or relationship. This week we released the Childline annual report 'It Turned Out Someone Did Care', which focuses on some of the biggest issues that face young people: mental health and wellbeing, sexuality and gender identity, and problems at school. If you tweet about the review, please use the hashtag #ChildlineCares

National news

Thousands of children reported over indecent images (01/09/2016) More than 2,000 children were reported to police in three years over indecent images, the NSPCC says. The children's charity submitted a Freedom of Information request spanning 2013-15 to police across the UK. This showed 2,031 under-18s were reported for crimes linked to the possession, distribution, or production of indecent images of children. NSPCC chief executive Peter Wanless said children had to be educated about staying safe both offline and online. The law states that making or sharing indecent photographs of anyone aged under the age of 18 could be classed as an offence - but there have been calls for recording rules to be adapted so children are not routinely criminalised.