

Online safety reminder during Covid-19

Summary

Detail

Remember online safety during the pandemic response - latest national guidance

Please be aware that the Government has released guidance for staying safe online:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-staying-safe-online> This sets out a four point plan of action that parents and carers can implement.

While noting the guidance, education settings are asked to share this guidance and the other sources of advice and guidance below, with parents and carers please.

Helping children and young people to stay safe while online is a perpetual challenge for parents and carers and even more so when the amount of time spent online increases. The benefits of being able to connect with each other via the internet and using the latest technology are enormous. However, with this comes a risk that exposure to cyberbullying, disinformation and grooming is greater with children and young people using the internet, unsupervised, for both education and entertainment while schools are closed and everyone is being asked to #StayAtHome to help prevent the spread of Covid-19. In helping to avert any threat to a child or young person's safety.

One of the most effective methods of keeping young people safe online is to raise awareness. This can be done by having conversations about what online activities the children and young people are engaging in and the safeguards they are taking.

The national guidance recommends reviewing security and safety settings, checking facts and guarding against disinformation, being vigilant against fraud and scams, and managing the amount of time spent online.

Online safety guidance, advice and resources are also available from the County Council for parents, carers, young people and professionals within schools (includes resources about relevant online issues):

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/safeguardingchildren/onlinesafetyguide>

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For the attention of:
Headteacher and Administration

Phase: All

Action: Note latest Government guidance and share with parents and carers

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Other helpful sources of advice are:

- * Parentzone <https://parentzone.org.uk/advice/parent-guides#>
- * NSPCC <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>
- * UK Safer Internet Centre <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>
- * Digital Parenting Magazine <https://www.vodafone.co.uk/cs/groups/public/documents/webcontent/vfcon103583.pdf>