

Online Safety Bulletin

for Professionals



Welcome

This is the first edition of the Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board's E-Safety Bulletin. We hope our readers will find this information useful, not only on how to keep children safe from Abuse and Harm online, but also yourself as professionals and parents or carers.

Within this edition is information on

1. [Personal Use of Social Media](#)
2. [Social Networking Privacy Settings](#)
3. [Self-Generated Indecent Images \(SGII\) - 'Sexting'](#)
4. [PSCB Cyberbullying Survey](#)

Personal Use of Social Media and Professional Boundaries

The majority of professionals who use Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other social medias do so as private individuals rather than in their professional capacity. Just like everyone else, professionals enjoy sharing holiday snaps and family photos with online friends. They comment on current affairs and 'like' other people's posts. And there's no reason why being employed to work with children or young people you shouldn't do these things. **BUT** you do need to give a little more thought to what you share, like and comment upon and importantly who else can see this. Understanding and using privacy settings and being circumspect in who you accept as a friend, follower or contact is vital.

Top tips for using Social Media Safely

1. School students and service users are NEVER your friends! Your policy should state that staff must not connect with students via personal social media/networking accounts, this should be via a professional account. It isn't rude to decline a 'friend request' if the request is from a student (or ex-student under the age of 18) it's self preservation!
2. Be careful about having parents as friends or followers - do you really want them sharing the things you post with other parents or their children (i.e. your students)?

3. Think before you post - who will be able to see the post? Who could they share it with? What is the worst case scenario? What would the Headteacher or the Chair of Governors think of the post? How would it appear in the local newspaper?
4. Most social media and networking accounts are public by default. Check your settings regularly - check to see who can see what you post. See below for information on privacy settings.
5. Google yourself regularly - play Internet detective and see how much information you can find out about yourself i.e. your digital footprint - you might be surprised.
6. Have a word with your nearest and dearest - establish just how public you want your family photos and personal details to be. You might also consider speaking to your family and friends about what they tag you in, as these posts can be seen by others.

Source: <http://www.e2bn.org/cms/index.php/online-resources/personal-use-of-social-media>

Social Networking Privacy Settings

Everyone, especially children, should be encouraged to use the privacy settings on all social media applications they use, so any content posted is only available to those they know and trust in real life.

To help set up your privacy settings, the Safer Internet Centre have a range a [guides for different networking sites](#). You can also download the [safety checklist's](#) for popular sites such as Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook. These resources are FREE and schools and other organisations can order them in quantities to make them available in their settings.

It's also important to remind young people that even if they have been chatting to a friendly person on a site or in a game for a while, they only know them from being online they are still a stranger and should not give out any personal details to them. If you are worried about an adult pressuring your child online, you should contact the Police and report it to [CEOP](#). The National Crime Agency's CEOP Command works with child protection partners across the UK and overseas to identify the main threats to children and coordinates activity against these threats to bring offenders to account.

Source <http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/news/staying-safe-online-this-summer>

Self-Generated Indecent Images (SGII) - 'Sexting'

"Sexting" is a term used to describe the sharing of intimate images or video with another person. This content can be anything from texts, partial nudity right up to sexual images or video. Very often it is between partners, but can be between groups and can use a whole range of devices, technologies and online spaces. The most common ones are by text, private message on social networks or apps such as Kik, Oovoo, Instagram or Skype

With 40% of teenagers saying that they have created and shared a sexually explicit image and reports of similar behaviour amongst primary aged children, all professionals need to be ready to respond appropriately to sexting incidents.

In September 2015 the National Police Chief Council released a statement on the procedure they have to take when a 'sexting' incident is reported to the police. As a result the South West Grid for Learning, the UK Safer Internet Centre coordinators, have updated [advice for schools when responding and managing a sexting incidents](#) to help schools assess and decide whether a sexting incident should be reported to the police.

If you would like further help or advice then the [Professionals Online Safety Helpline](#) is open from Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm on 0844 381 4772 or via email at helpline@saferinternet.org.uk



Download the guidance

The Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board have also produced a webpage and leaflet to highlight some of the dangers around ‘Sexting’

<http://www.safeguardingpeterborough.org.uk/children-board/onlinesafety/sexting/>

Cyberbullying Survey

The Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board will be carrying out a survey with pupils aged 7 - 16 during the start of the new school year on their views of cyberbullying. This survey is aimed to identify what young people know about cyberbullying and where to go if they need support.

We’d appreciate your assistance in supporting young people to complete this survey, their views are important to us to ensure the work carried out by the children’s workforce is relevant to those we work to protect.

Further guidance on how to offer support along with the survey will be supplied at the beginning of the autumn term.



Please give us your views on cyberbullying and online safety!

The Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board are looking for your comments and opinions on what you use online and how safe you think the internet is.

We have created a survey which will be available during the autumn term for children and young people to complete and if you’re aged between 7 and 16 years we would like to hear from you.

It will only take a few minutes

If you would like advice or information on Online Safety please visit www.safeguardingpeterborough.org.uk/children-board/onlinesafety/




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The next E-safety Bulletin will be published in December, if there is anything you would like to see please email jody.watts@peterborough.gov.uk