Online Safety Bulletin
for Parents/Carers

Welcome

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

Within this edition is information on

1. Social Networking Privacy Settings
2. Self-Generated Indecent Images (SGII) - 'Sexting'
3. PSCB Cyberbullying Survey

Social Networking Privacy Settings

With the summer holidays soon upon us, children will be looking forward to having more free time on their hands, some of which will be spent using the internet to keep in touch with friends, and playing their favourite games. But do you feel confident that you know enough about the apps and social networking sites they are using? Remember most Social Networking sites have an age limit of 13. Everyone, especially children, should be encouraged to use the privacy settings 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
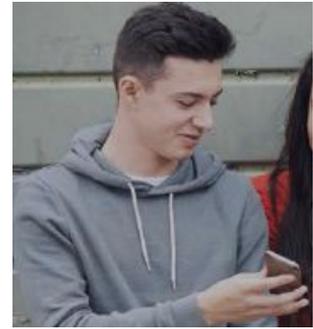
40% of teenagers say that they have created and shared a sexually explicit image and there are reports of similar behaviour amongst primary aged children.

As a result the South West Grid for Learning, the UK Safer Internet Centre coordinators, produced a leaflet called 'So you got naked online' which includes Amanda's story

Amanda Todd committed suicide at the age of 15 at her home in British Columbia, Canada. Prior to her death, Amanda posted a video on YouTube in which she used a series of flash cards to tell her experience of being blackmailed into exposing her breasts via webcam, being bullied and physically assaulted. The video which can be seen at the following link https://youtu.be/vOHXGNx-E7E went viral after her death resulting in international media attention. Her mother Carol Todd has since dedicated her time to awareness raising on the issues which affected Amanda, and supports the work of the Safer Internet Centre. Download the leaflet

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/

Top tips for keeping yourself and your children safe online

Everyone needs to be aware of online risks posed to children. These include inappropriate contact from people who may wish to abuse, exploit or bully them. Children could also access sexually explicit, racist, violent, extremist or other harmful material.

1. Do not give out personal information including dates of birth, address, school.
2. Set privacy settings so only family and close friends have access to what they post
3. Do not accept friend requests from anyone unless they are known in real life
4. Limit your child's access to Bank details and credit cards online

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 would appreciate your assistance in supporting your children to complete the survey to ensure their views are included, as these are very important to us.

The next E-safety Bulletin will be published in December, in the meantime, for more information on online safety please visit our website at

http://safeguardingpeterborough.org.uk/children-board/onlinesafety/