Prestwich Arts College

Online Safety Newsletter: January 2020

New device?

Smart Phones

Did your child get a new smart phone for Christmas or are they using yours? Have you made sure that the correct parental controls have been set up to help protect your child whilst using the device?

Example controls include setting the device so only age appropriate apps can be downloaded and the ability to disable in-app purchasing (or don't store your payment card details) to avoid any hefty bills.

iPhone advice: https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT201304
Android advice: https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/smartphones-and-other-devices/android-smartphone/

Smart speakers

Have you invested in a smart speaker for your home? "Hey, Google" or "Alexa, play some music" may be your key commands now but have you set up the correct parental controls? For example, when using a supervised account on a Google nest, children can't make purchases.

Google Nest:
https://support.google.com/googlenest/answer/9039704?hl=en-gb&ref_topic=7196250

Amazon Echo: https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/how-to-set-parental-controls-on-the-amazon-echo

Anonymous apps

This guide was produced by Internet Matters to inform parents about Anonymous apps.

They can often be used by teenagers but due to the nature of these apps, young people can be exposed to grooming and cyberbullying whilst using them.

This guide includes information about what anonymous apps are and tips on how to support your child:

https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/anonymous-apps-guide-what-parents-need-to-know/

Start a conversation!

Question?
Who would you talk to if you saw something online that upset you?

Is this fake news?

This is a handy guide designed to help you support your child in developing their critical and digital literacy when spotting fake information online. Read the guide here:
https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/tackling-fake-news-misinformation-advice-for-parents/

Want to learn more?

The eSafety Commissioner (Australia) has set up this dedicated area to learn more about games, apps and social media that your child might be accessing, including how to report online abuse, block somebody and links to further information. Available here:

https://www.esafety.gov.au/key-issues/esafety-guide

WhatsApp privacy settings

Are yours and your child's (if using) privacy settings set up appropriately? For example, you can set that only 'my contacts' can add you to groups and even add exceptions to this rule.
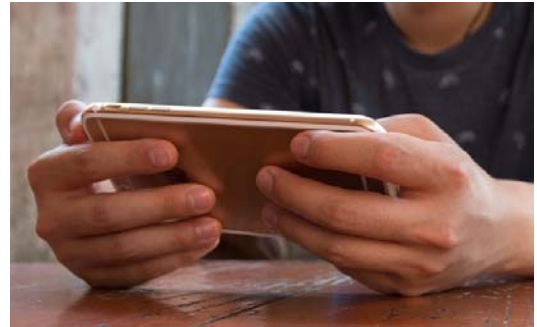
Android device:
https://faq.whatsapp.com/en/android/23225461/?category=5245250

iPhone device:
https://faq.whatsapp.com/en/iphone/28041111

PUBG Mobile (PEGI 16)

You may not have heard of PlayerUnknown's Battleground (PUBG) Mobile but it is more than likely your child will have. It is the mobile version of PUBG so it has been optimised for ioS and Android devices. To give you an idea of the scale of the mobile version of this game its gross earnings since launching in February 2018 is $1.3 billion. It is similar to Fortnite in that it is a scavenger/ survival style game where players are dropped on an island with up to 99 other players and the winner is the last player standing. Players have to find weapons, tools and other equipment and hunt other players.

What do I need to be aware of?

- **Weapons:** The aim of this game is to kill other players so players are using realistic weapons.
- **Chat feature**: as with all games of this nature, one of the significant concerns is the game chat feature, which may mean your child is subjected to inappropriate language. The chat facility can be disabled via the settings.
- **Blocking:** ensure your child knows how to block other players.
- **In-app purchases:** in-app purchases can be very expensive in this game and range from £0.79 - £184.99.

Instagram restrict mode

Instagram have introduced a new feature that allows users to restrict another user. You could restrict somebody (a bully for example) which means they will not be able to see when you are online or if you've read their messages. Also, only you (and that user) will be able to see their comments on your post. The great thing about this feature is that they won't know that you have 'restricted' them. This is different to blocking (when you block somebody, you no longer see anything they do on Instagram and they don't see anything you do either).

Learn how to use this new feature so you can show your child how to use it: https://help.instagram.com/2638385956221960