

PARENTS – KEY MESSAGES FOR PREVENTING HARM

10-minute guidance films available for organisations/
schools/parents/carers to watch with your children on our website

£4.99 for 7 days download

www.freedom-abuse.org

NOTE OF CAUTION offline: freelance tutors do **NOT** require a **DBS** NOR will they obtain one. AND self-employed sports coaches i.e. tennis/cricket coaches are **ALLOWED BY LAW** of **CONSENT** to be intimate with players aged 16 years and older unlike **EMPLOYED SPORTS TEACHERS IN SCHOOLS**

Online issues and how to stay safe

- If your name is on the contract for devices & broadband, **YOU** are legally responsible for the communications which flow through
- **HR departments** are looking at **Google** to see applicant's social media to make an assessment regarding employment etc
- Be aware **FACEBOOK** images of your children are not safe & can be easily lifted for ill intent
- Procurers “**photo shop**” for children's pictures to airbrush into child abuse images
- **Abusers** rely on the fact today's youngsters have **BLURRED** boundaries online of a friend and a stranger and the perpetrators go to extraordinary lengths to disguise themselves using **voice distorters** and to generally deceive. They will take **2 to 3 hours to disguise identity with extraordinary effect** – a **50-year-old man can look like a 15-year-old teenage girl**.
- **www. IS world wide web! NOT under the duvet!**
- **NO image or message** can be **hidden, erased** or a **change of mind** once sent it is there **FOREVER** on the internet
- **Delete** anyone on social media who is **NOT** known to your child
- **Keep webcams covered** – **Smart TV's, I-Phone's** etc – abusers do all they can to engage with children and **watch them, film them** on the webcam with **no intention of playing the game**

- **Weak passwords** are easily **hacked** make them at least 12 characters & a different **password** for **EVERY** account
- Is family screen time under **YOUR** control?
- Does screen time interfere with family activities?
- Do you manage “**snack time**” whilst playing games?
- Are they getting enough **sleep**?
- **Royal Society of paediatrics Children** should stop screen use every **2 hours** and go for a walk or a snack break etc and recommend **switching off** devices **an hour** before bedtime
- Keep **GHOST MODE ON** for **Snap Chat**
- Keep “**location services**” switched **OFF**
- Use “**two step verification**” for **devices**
- Take devices out of **bedroom** – many young children, **girls especially aged 8 to 13** are **LIVE STREAMING** to random people which is a **permanent record** & sold on the **dark web** if of **sexual interest to abusers**. The content being **sexual abuse thresholds** and **VERY explicit** taken in their bedrooms on **webcams** or on **mobile phones**
- Remind children of the danger of the **DARK WEB** and where their images end up if accessed from their social media accounts hacked by child abusers and then **sold** on into their community
- **NOBODY** under the age of **18 years old** can take a sexualised photo of themselves - in law they are guilty of “**possession**”, send it on and guilty of “**distribution**”
- **SEXTING** is **illegal** and if reported to police could end up with a **REPORT** against their name detrimental to their future life due to **DBS checks** stating “**sexualised offence**”
- **SEXTING** includes wearing underwear – any image which is sexually provocative is **illegal**
- If your child shows signs of **anxiety** and **depression** and this has recently occurred ask **WHY**, is it connected to behaviours on **social media**? Assure them you are there to **support** and **help** them, we **ALL** made mistakes when young
- **INSTAGRAM** is the worst social media platform for causing mental health issues in young people today **ALSO** the **WORST PLATFORM** for abusers **grooming children online** as **young as 5 years old** **ALSO** the worst platform for content encouraging eating disorders
- **FORTNITE** abusers are contacting through **VOICE CHAT** turn the chat **OFF**

- **Check** on your child if they hide the screen of their phone or keep going out to answer it.
- No child under **13 years** of age should be on **social media**. This is guidance from the various apps and platforms, not law

Exploitation and Knives and County lines how to stay safe and where & who the dangers lie

- Remind children of **CONSENT** – it is important they understand the need for “**NO**” **AND** not be coerced otherwise
- **PRESS** the fact today’s **STRANGER** is often someone **THEIR** own or similar age at the start of **CSE** and **county lines**
- Stresses **JOINT ENTERPRISE** – **guilty by association!!**
- Discover where “**dangerous**” places maybe prevalent in **YOUR** area
- **NEVER** give anyone your phone who you don’t know they could **ADD A TRACKER OR CALL DROP** (entering the phone a gang member number) **BUT ALWAYS HAND IT OVER IF YOU ARE THREATENED** - you don’t want to be stabbed and can always buy a new phone
- **NEVER** accept cigarettes/money from someone unknown
- **NEVER** accept a phone from someone other than parents and family
- **NEVER** walk home with someone they don’t know or invite them into the house – risk of cuckooing
- Remind children to be suspicious of **mopeds** and **bikes** hanging around on **street corners** or **shops** and **school AND AVOID “HOODIES”**
- If **POSSIBLE**, ask the school if identifiable uniform i.e. blazers can be covered outside and worn in school. Children from independent schools **ARE** being targeted
- If a situation arises **RUN** and **SHOUT “FIRE”** and go to a safe space and tell someone
- **ALWAYS** have an escape plan when out and about an arranged text word
- **ALWAYS** know where your child is and with whom and time expected home
- **ALWAYS** keep mobile phone charged
- Criminal age of responsibility is **10 years old** – in Scotland it is **8 years old**
- “**Joint enterprise**” means guilty by association just by being part of a group and a crime happens
- If your child has changed friendship groups, truanting, going out as soon as they come home – **where are they going? Follow them if need be! Ground them if they are not where they are meant to be!**

- Notice if your child has “**post codes**” on their belongings and tell school – this is a sign of “**turf gangs**”
- If you feel concerned of your child’s behaviours and places, they frequent **DO TELL SCHOOL!** Teachers are there to support you and your family
- **Be observant** - if you spot train tickets lying around; **Vaseline; clingfilm; old Nokia phones; burner phones; dongle; odd packages** in your freezer hidden behind rarely used items – could be “**Lithuanian meth**” which needs to be kept frozen called “**Flacker or Crock**”
- **Child gangs** – **THE THICKER** the BMX tyre the higher up the gang status

RESOURCES:

Useful short films: “**The Cup of Tea**” and “**Kayleigh’s love story**” found on YouTube and “**Breck Bednar**”

Please do read our parental guidance documents and Digital Generation document and download our **guidance videos:**

On our home page : www.freedom-abuse.org for **£4.99** for a **7 day download** – various topics go to our home page, scroll down to “**online training**” click and see the titles

There is a useful tiny word in the English language “**NO**” **use it and mean it!**
Remember YOU should be in control!

If you are aware of a crime **DO** call **Crimestoppers UK** – **0800 555 111** – guaranteed anonymous reporting

Do contact us if you need further advice www.freedom-abuse.org

Freedom From Abuse