

E-Safety News

Nov 2010

Safeguarding children and young people from the dangers on the internet, computers, mobile phones, games consoles and other digital devices.

A news sheet for staff working with children and young people who use digital equipment and use the internet - (I think that means all of you).

This is an occasional news sheet produced by the GSCB E-Safety Task Group. It contains information that we hope will be useful to you in your work with children, young people and parents. We aim to provide information and access to resources to enable you to give the most up to date advice.

In order to assist in this task we are asking that each setting identifies a lead person for 'e-safety' (not necessarily your IT person as we are talking about behaviour here rather than technology) and for you to let us know who that person is. You can do that by emailing us at gscb@gloucestershire.gov.uk giving us your name, job title and the agency you work for.



SEXTING

Internet
Safety
Day - 8th
Feb 2010

Gloucestershire Constabulary will launch a new web site to coincide with Safer Internet Day 2011. The site will feature the tag-line 'Safe 'n' Savvy' and will give advice on internet safety to infants, juniors, secondary age, professionals and parents. Further information will follow in early 2011.

This is the name given to the practice of sharing intimate pictures electronically, via text messaging, blue tooth, web cam, e-mail etc. In many instances these images are self-taken. The risk is that once the picture is shared the original owner loses all control of the images, and they can be circulated to large numbers of people very quickly. As with anything posted on the internet, the images are likely to remain in circulation permanently. The images may also be used for the purpose of grooming, bullying or even blackmail. There is growing evidence that the practice self-taken images is very widespread with children and young people. The Sexual Offences Act 2003 makes creating, possessing, distributing etc. indecent images of anyone under the age of 18 a criminal offence.

Many young people are unaware of the risks and may be prepared to share intimate pictures with partners or friends. The advice to young people is not to allow intimate pictures of themselves to be taken on any medium (digital or conventional). More information is available from SW Grid for Learning- <http://www.swgfl.org.uk/Staying-Safe/Sexting-Survey>

Location Based Social Networking

When a user opens a social networking site like Facebook on a phone equipped with GPS location software, the technology will be able to identify where the user is in the real world. This information can be made available to their online friends, and may also show their friends' location. The risk is that many young people have 'friends' who they don't know in the real world. As with GPS technology generally, the advice is to turn this function off unless there is a specific need to use it.

GPS technology

GPS technology on mobile phones now means that photos taken using these devices may contain the global co-ordinates of the location where the picture was taken. Anyone in possession of the photo can extract these co-ordinates and enter them into a variety of search engines, which will then give them the address of where the picture was taken, or even enter them into a satnav which can take them to that specific location. See also above on sexting. Evidence suggests many self taken indecent images are taken in home addresses. The risk is that young people (or anyone else for that matter) may be giving details about where they live to people without knowing they are doing so. The advice to young people is to ensure this facility is switched off on their phones unless they specifically need to use it. Unfortunately, the procedure for doing this will vary according to the make and model of each handset.

Sparkle Box 1 and 2

Concerns remain about the use of the SparkleBox site (and recently Sparkle Box 2) and so advice about its use has not changed. Please do not use Sparkle Box, there are plenty of alternative educational resource sites available.

For more information please follow the following link to the GSCB website:

[Information Regarding the SparkleBox website/](#)



For further information
and comments on this
newsletter:

Telephone:

01452 583629

E-mail:

gscb@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Website:

www.gscb.org.uk