



5th February 2018

Dear Parents

We are committed to promoting the safe and responsible use of the internet and as such we feel it is our responsibility to raise this particular issue as a growing concern, due to the increase in inappropriate use of ROBLOX, OoVoo, Skype, Instagram, Facebook and snapchat.

Tomorrow, 6th February, is Internet Safety Day and therefore thought it would be a good opportunity to remind you of issues that could arise when your children are online and to help you to keep your children safe online.

Many of the issues that have been brought to our attention recently have involved the use of:

- ROBLOX—a multiplayer online game where players can send and receive messages from their online friends.
- OoVoo – a video and messaging app; it allows video chats of up to 12 people at one time. You are required to be at least 13 years old before you can create an account.
- Skype - a video and messaging app. You are required to be at least 13 years old before you can create an account.
- Instagram - an online mobile photo sharing, video sharing and social networking service which enables its users to take pictures and videos and share them on a variety of social networking platforms. You are required to be at least 13 years old before you can create an account.
- Facebook - a social networking site. You are required to be at least 13 years old before you can create an account.
- Snapchat- a mobile messaging application used to share photos, videos, text, and drawings. You are required to be at least 13 years old before you can create an account.
- Youtube- a free video sharing website that makes it easy to watch online videos. You can even create and upload your own videos to share with others. You are required to be at least 13 years old before you can create an account.

We understand that it is increasingly difficult to keep up with the ways that our children are using new and ever changing technologies. Our children are immersed in a society that has become dependent on powerful computers, including smart phones, iPads, interactive online games and virtual communities. Websites such as Facebook, Instagram, Skype, Whats App, Viber and OoVoo, to name but a few, offer fantastic opportunities for communication and social connections, however they are created with their audience in mind, especially sites such as Facebook and Instagram which are specifically for those over 13 years old.

When monitoring your son/daughter's internet use, please remind yourself of the concerns of social media:

- Many sites use 'targeted' advertising and therefore your child could be exposed to adverts of inappropriate nature.
- Young people may accept friend requests from people they do not know in real life, which could increase the risk of inappropriate contact or behaviour.
- Language, games, groups and content posted or shared on social media is not moderated, and therefore can be offensive, illegal or unsuitable for young people.
- Photographs shared by users are not moderated, and therefore, young people could be exposed to inappropriate images or even post their own.

With this in mind, we feel it important to point out to parents the risks of unregulated use of such sites, so you can make informed decisions as to whether to allow your child to have a profile or not.

Should you decide to allow your child to have an online profile we strongly advise you check their profile is set to private and that only their friends can see information they post. Also monitor your child's use and talk to them about safe and appropriate online behaviour such as not sharing personal information and not posting or messaging offensive /inappropriate messages or photo's.

We recommend that all parents visit the CEOP Think U Know website for more information on keeping your child safe online www.thinkuknow.co.uk. www.net-aware.org.uk and www.getsafeonline.org

Through lessons provided at school, assemblies, and PSHE lessons, we do our best to provide our children with the awareness and knowledge they need in order to recognise and avoid dangerous, destructive, or unlawful behaviour and to respond appropriately. However, it is only through a collaborative effort between parents and teachers that we will succeed in creating responsible and safe cyber citizens.

If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your support on this matter.

Miss Kiddy

Online Safety Lead



Website: www.greatwhelnetham.suffolk.sch.uk