

**Safeguarding Newsletter Spring Term Update 2018**

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**Journey to and from school**

It has been reported to the Local Authority by a number of schools in the city that there have been a number of incidents of children being approached by adult males on their journey to/from school. The matters have always been reported to the police who are investigating. Whilst we do not wish to alarm parents, whilst police consider these matters we would encourage our families and carers to continue to ensure their child travels safely to and from school, and is safe within the community. We are not able to provide any further details of the incidents mentioned.

**Online Safety**

**Live Streaming**

Live streaming is a popular feature online. By understanding the risks of live streaming you can help your children stay safe. Live streaming can be found on many popular social media platforms such as Facebook (Facebook live) and Instagram (live video).

The Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre (CEOP) have released some guidance which can be accessed using this link

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/live-streaming-responding-to-the-risks/>.

**What makes live streaming risky for children and young people?**

*Reduced inhibition online*

Children, like adults, can feel more confident when they are online as they feel somewhat protected by the screen. This can result in children engaging in behaviour that they would not otherwise do in ‘real life’. For example, they may share personal information when asked or do things that in another situation they wouldn’t do, such as share something private or even sexual.

*Tactics such as trickery and flattery*

Offenders use tactics to try and get children to do things that they otherwise may not do. Trickery can be used in the form of games that often start off ‘innocent’ and then build up to trick a child into taking their clothes off.

*Affirmation*

Lots of positive comments and compliments can make children feel good.  Affirmation and acceptance is also very important to children developing a stronger individual identity as they move into their teenage years.

**How can you help your child stay safe when live streaming?**

See below for some practical steps you can take to help keep your child safe if they are using an app or website with a live streaming function:

*Stay involved in their internet use*

Talk to your child about what they are doing online; what they are enjoying, what they are learning, who are they interacting with and the new things they have discovered. Parental engagement in the positive aspect of being online and not just the risky things will help your child to talk more openly about their internet use, including anything that worries them. Having these discussions often is more effective than having ‘one big chat’.

*Use webcam and devices in public spaces*

As young people develop, they often seek more privacy and autonomy in both their online and offline world. However, it’s important to consider whether children are developmentally ready to be left unsupervised using devices. A known risk factor is when children use live streaming platforms in their bedroom or bathrooms unsupervised.

*Privacy and safety settings*

If your child is using an app with a live streaming function go through the privacy and safety settings together, setting them to make sure only the friends they know in ‘real life’ can view their profile. Be wary of requests to chat in private – Offenders may try and move children from a public area of an app to a private area to have conversations that are likely to be less moderated.

*Build resilience*

You can help build your child’s resilience and self-esteem through conversations and activities that are not based on validation from online ‘fans’ or views.

*Safe and trusted adults and advice*

Help your child to identify adults that are there to help from ones who they do not know or that may want something in return. As your child gets older they may look to the internet for information and advice. Support them to identify trusted sources on the internet, versus places where they should be more cautious

Make sure your child knows where to go for support and where to report - Children can sometimes feel they are to blame if something goes wrong online. Remind your child that they can always speak to you or an adult they trust if they are worried no matter what may have happened. Talk to them about reporting directly within the app or platform they are using and that they can report to CEOP if they’re concerned about contact from an adult.

If you have any concerns about your daughter’s use of the internet and would like further information/guidance please visit the following websites:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

[www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers](http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers)

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>