Welcome to the October 2019 Scomis Online Safety Newsletter for Parents

Gambling

The NHS has opened its first clinic for young people addicted to gaming and gambling, a year after a Gambling Commission report found that 55,000 11-to-16-year-olds in the UK were problem gamblers. *(BBC News 8/10/19)*

Concerned?
Need to find out more?

Visit BigDeal's website designed to help young people (and parents/carers) to:
Increase knowledge about gambling – what it is, how it works and why people do it
Watch BigDeal's videos here
Hear real stories and take helpful quizzes in the explore section
Learn about the support that is available and more:
https://www.bigdeal.org.uk/

Digital Resilience Toolkit for Parents

Looking for advice and help on how to help children become more resilient online?
Working with their 'Online expert ambassador' Dr Linda Papadopoulos, Internet Matters has created a number of age-specific resources. Help children to become more resilient and cope with whatever the online world throws at them.
Toolkits including easy to watch videos:
Supporting 6 – 10 year olds
Supporting 11 - 13 year olds
Support 14+ year olds
Online Safety Age Guides
Interactive Guides
https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/digital-resilience-toolkit/

How safe are the sites, apps and games your child uses?

Would you like to:

- Keep up to date with the latest sites, apps and games?
- Find out about anonymous messaging apps such as **Tellonym** and more?
- Find out how to keep your child safe when playing online games?
- Find out if **Harry Potter: Wizards Unite** is appropriate for your child?

Visit NSPCC's NetAware site:
https://www.net-aware.org.uk/
Remember FREE advice is just a phone call away from the 0_2 and NSPCC helpline 0808 800 5002
Or visit any 0_2 Guru in an 0_2 store

Have you heard about Loot boxes?

The UK Safer Internet Centre has published an article providing key information about:

- loot boxes
- what they mean for young people and their online safety
- how to encourage safe and responsible usage

Did you know:
Users can purchase loot boxes in games with real money?
Loot boxes are common in games such as:
Fortnite
Apex Legends
Star Wars Battlefront II
FIFA Sports games
Review the article '11 things you should know about loot boxes': https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/11-things-you-should-know-about-loot-boxes

Live Streaming

Live streaming allows the user to broadcast real-time, live video to an audience over the internet.
To live stream you need:
Smartphone, tablet or any internet enabled device
Platform to broadcast on, such as YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and more!
What are the risks:
Most platforms recommended age = 13+
Difficult to moderate
Possibility of sharing something private which might later regret
Can endanger privacy through exposure of personal information
Find out more about Live Streaming at ParentZone: https://parentzone.org.uk/article/live-streaming-everything-you-need-know-about-online-phenomenon

Have you heard of TikTok?

Recommended Age 13+
TikTok is a social network for sharing user-generated videos, mostly of people lip-synching to popular songs.
It was originally called **musical.ly**
Users can sign up with a mobile phone number, email address, Instagram or Facebook account.
Users can change privacy settings but the account is public by default when opened.
Warning! If privacy settings are not set anyone could send messages, see your child's videos and use their location information
Read Common Sense Media's full review of TikTok - Real Short Videos, and help your child use this app safely.

SCOMIS Your ICT Partner