St Peter at Gowts CE Primary School – Spring 2nd half term 2021 eSafety newsletter

Welcome to our third termly eSafety newsletter.

More useful information and websites can be found on our school website at: https://www.st-peter-gowts.lincs.sch.uk/safeguarding/

Please do get in touch if you have any questions, comments or concerns you would like to discuss with us.

Many thanks for your continued support.

The St Peter at Gowts Team

Y6 were lucky to take part in a brilliant Internet Safety workshop just after half term that was led by Dan Hawbrook. Dan also filmed a session entitled: A **Parent's guide to Online Safety. In this video, Da**n speaks about online safety and keeping children safe. a copy of the video can be viewed her: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrWJte5NAzw&t=127s

Dan looks at the positive sides of the internet, negative parts, popular apps what they are and how to keep your children safe on them.

We are very pleased to announce that we have now also gained our **Remote Education award,** alongside the **National Online Safety Certified School award**.

We have been working closely with National Online Safety who have interviewed use about our successes and will be publishing an article all about St Peters very soon – watch this space!

Over the last 12 months, there have been increase in the number of schools reporting that students, while at home, have accessed content which is not always appropriate, some of which has been quite scary or upsetting. While there is no perfect way to eliminate this risk, there are things you can do to support their children online, reduce the risk or manage it after the fact. Here are some of the practical steps you can follow:

--Contact your Internet Service Provider (ISP): Companies that provide broadband such as BT, Sky and Virgin, offer free protection for parents and carers. They can filter your internet connection directly, without having to install anything. Guide on how to use this can be found here: https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/broadband-mobile/

--YouTube is a fantastic resource, especially when home-schooling, but not all the content is appropriate for children and not all YouTube channels are made for young audiences. YouTube has an app just for children – YouTube Kids – but many people don't realise that the main YouTube app has a restricted mode. Check out more about how it works here: https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/youtube-app/

--Games consoles have features that can limit what games they can play based on the age ratings and can even turn off certain features to allow gaming to be a little safer. To learn more about these features visit https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/

--Games are also rated based on the content, not how difficult they are. 18 rated games can have very graphic violence, adult language and themes, sexual content and horror elements. Learn a bit more about appropriate games by visiting https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming-whats-appropriate-for-your-child/ or visit this site for more about game ratings https://parentzone.org.uk/article/pegi-games-ratings-explained

It's important to remember that no filters or controls are 100% effective so make sure your child knows that they can, and should, talk to someone if they see or hear anything upsetting online so we can offer them some reassurance. This information from Thinkuknow might be useful: https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Im-worried-my-primary-aged-child-might-see-something-inappropriate-online/