

IMPORTANT
E-Safety Letter for Parents

14/03/16

Dear Parents,

At Ellenbrook School, we take your children's safety extremely seriously. In school, access to the internet is **very strictly monitored and filtered by Salford**. Children can only access suitable websites and only under strict adult supervision.

We now discuss e-safety with the children before every Computing lesson, and every time they use the internet in school for any reason.

During recent discussions with the children, it has become clear that a number of children are using the internet regularly **without any parental supervision**, especially in years 5 and 6. Also, most children are regularly using a social networking or online communication site or app of some description.

The majority of children said either they'd been personally subjected to abuse, or had witnessed someone else being abused online in the last 12 months. At our recent parents training session, it emerged that most threats and abuse came from children's peers and not from strangers. Many instances of cyberbullying involve either PSN, Xbox Live or other gaming methods of communication. It was clear from the frank and open way that children contributed to a recent discussion that they felt such behaviour was almost 'accepted'.

In response to our findings in these discussions, a 'CLICK CEOP' link has been added to our school website and every child from Year 1 upwards has been shown how to use it.

If your child has access to the internet at locations other than home, (e.g. Grandparents / estranged parents / mobile phones etc.) please ensure they are aware of the risks involved.

It has come to our attention that children are still playing on Xbox Live and PlayStation Network (PSN) at home unsupervised. In many cases, they are playing 15 and 18 rated video games such as Call of Duty, and interacting with adult players via headsets and instant messaging. These games often contain some or all of the following: extreme graphic violence, obscene language and sexual acts.

Studies have shown that exposure to such images and ideas at a young age can result in loss of empathy and increased aggression. Children should be shocked by graphic images and obscene language; unfortunately, many children are becoming used to these things and are much more accepting of them in their real lives.

These games are given an 18 certificate because these extremes - visual or otherwise, are damaging to young minds.

Many parents feel pressured into allowing their child to play these games because 'everyone else in class is allowed'. Please support each other in following the PEGI age-rating guidance (<http://www.pegi.info/>).

At Ellenbrook School, the children are actively discouraged from discussing inappropriate gaming.

Here are some tips from our recent training-

Important information about Online Safety.

- Have the conversation with the children early and often about how to go online safely
- Explore online together – (allow them to teach you how to browse!)
- Know who your child is talking to online at all times
- Set rules and agree boundaries
- Make sure that content is age-appropriate
- Use parental controls to filter, restrict, monitor or report content (Call O2 support 0808 800 5002) www.o2.co.uk/digital-family
- Check they know how to use privacy setting and reporting tools

For more information: www.thinkyouknow.co.uk/parents

- To help remove content online (contact Revengeporn Helpline 08456000458) who will help you to take down anything that has been posted on the web which you would like to remove.
- Watch this animation on youtube about how children must not give personal details online. **Lee and Kim adventureAnimal magic**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NxYily6t4LQ&feature=player_embedded

-  Use Kids you tube for the children

- Have a look at lots of helpful information on NSPCC site
(<http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>)

- www.o2.co.uk/digital-family
- **CEOP guidance video for secondary age young people;**
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9uJOXOAQ9Qo>

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Parkins

Head Teacher