

Bird's Bush Primary School E-Safety Newsletter

Welcome to our first E-Safety newsletter.

Firstly, thank you for your responses to our E-safety questionnaire. It is useful to gain insight into children's online lives out of school.

Please find some guidance that may be helpful and informative with regard to apps that we know are being used by pupils in our school as well as some key facts for more general online awareness.

Mrs Rumsey, Computing Coordinator

KEEPING SAFE WHEN PLAYING ONLINE GAMES

Online gaming can be a fun and creative activity for all the family. However, it is essential that parents/carers help children to be aware of the possible risks and help build the skills and knowledge to enable them to enjoy gaming safely. Childnet has published a free leaflet that has a wealth of advice to help parents/carers ensure children are accessing games in a positive and safe way.

Visit Childnet for more information:

www.childnet.com/resources/online-gaming-an-introduction-

BE SHARE AWARE

It can be very hard for parents to keep track of what children are doing and accessing online. The NSPCC have teamed up with O2 to help parents/carers talk to their children about staying safe in the digital world. These films (such as 'Lucy and the Boy') may help you start a conversation about the dangers and consequences of sharing inappropriate photographs and videos online. You can access these videos here: www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/share-aware/



TOP TIPS FOR HAVING A CONVERSATION WITH CHILDREN ABOUT CYBERBULLYING

Discussing cyberbullying with your child may seem very daunting but the best way to support them is to encourage them to have open and honest conversations with you about their online life. Check out childnet's website for ideas at:

www.childnet.com/blog/6-tips-for-having-a-conversation-with-your-child-about-cyberbullying

- Know how to start a conversation
- Let them talk
- Don't deny access to technology
- Let them know if you plan to talk to their school
- Let them know you are available to talk

APPS TO BE AWARE OF...

IMVU

We have recently been alerted to an app called 'IMVU' which is a social media app that allows the user to create an 'avatar' and speak to strangers. It also pinpoints the users location so that whoever you are speaking to can see where you are.

Please speak to your children about the need to avoid downloading it.

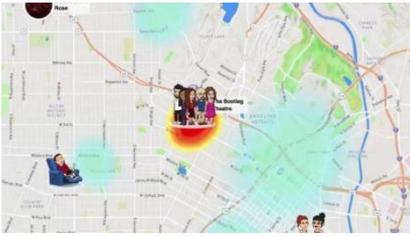
SNAPCHAT

SNAPCHAT Snapchat is an app that lets you send a photo, short video or message to your contacts. The 'snap' appears on screen for up to 10 seconds before disappearing, or there is an option to have no time limit. A Snapchat Story can let you share a sequence for up to 24 hours.

Visit Connect Safely for a parent's guide to Snapchat: www.connectsafely.org/a-parents-guide-to-snapchat/

A further feature of Snapchat is Snap Maps. This allows you share your location with your friends and it also allows you to scroll around an actual map to see where your friends are located. This feature is automatically on and requires you (the user) to change the settings to Ghost Mode to hide where you are. The advice on the below link explains how to find Snap Map and turn the Ghost Mode on:

support.snapchat.com/en-US/a/snap-map-location-settings



SARAHAH

Sarahah allows users to send anonymous, unmonitored comments to both friends and strangers without the receiver being able to identify who has posted the message. The app lets users create a profile and works as an add-on to the popular social networking app Snapchat. As all comments are anonymous, it's very easy for people to say mean and hurtful things without any consequences.

Sarahah is not recommended for children's use and it comes with an app store rating of 17.

For information and advice visit Kidscape:
www.kidscape.org.uk/news/2017/october/sarahahstaying-safe-with-the-new-anonymous-feedback-app/

YUBO FORMERLY KNOWN AS YELLOW

Yubo allows people to connect based on their location, with users 'swiping' to accept or decline to talk to someone based on their profile picture. It is linked to photo-sharing app Instagram.

If you swipe right on a person who has swiped right on your profile, you can then chat and automatically follow them on Instagram. This means that they can begin sending each other photos right away - even if they don't know each other. You can also live stream with friends or 'Anyone' on the app.

What do you need to know? <https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/yuboforformerly-yellow-dating-app-teens/>

ROBLOX

Roblox is a gaming platform where multiple players interact and play together online. The site has a collection of games aimed at 8-18 year olds; however players of all ages can use the site. People of all ages do play this game though. This means both adults and young people can play and communicate with each other on the platform. All games are multiplayer and include a written chat feature, which is visible to players within each individual game. Users can also make and receive friend requests during gameplay and this means that they can chat to each other outside of the game.

The Roblox Studio is a section where players use their imagination and skills to create their own games and share these with others. The ability to create and play games can be very appealing to young people who like to create the content they see online. However, because content is user-generated it can mean that some games might not be appropriate for young children. For example, whilst the graphics are not very life like, some of the games feature weapons and blood.

Make sure your child knows how to find and use the report and block functions. Use the Roblox how to make a report page to learn how to do this. Set up the parental controls that are right for your family. You can also disable chat, set up the Parent PIN and use the Account Restrictions within Roblox. There are additional safety features for **under-13s**, so it's worth checking your child's account is registered with the correct age.

OTHER APPS TO THINK ABOUT...

- YouTube
- Instagram
- Omegle
- Musical.ly

Know what your child is accessing and who they are talking to online.

