



PARENTS – KEY MESSAGES FOR PREVENTING HARM

www.freedom-abuse.org

NOTE OF CAUTION off line: freelance tutors do NOT require a DBS NOR will they obtain one. AND self-employed sports coaches i.e. tennis/cricket coaches are **ALLOWED BY LAW of CONSENT** to be intimate with players aged 16 yrs and older unlike **EMPLOYED SPORTS TEACHERS IN SCHOOLS**

On Line issues and how to stay safe

- If your name is on the contract for devices & broadband, YOU are legally responsible for the communications which flow through
- HR departments are looking at google to see applicant's social media to make an assessment regarding employment etc
- Be aware FACEBOOK images of your children are not safe & can be easily lifted for ill intent
- Procurers "photo shop" for children's pictures to airbrush into child abuse images
- Abusers rely on the fact today's youngsters have BLURRED boundaries online of a friend and a stranger and the perpetrators go to extraordinary lengths to disguise themselves using voice distorters and to generally deceive. They will take 2 to 3 hours to disguise identity with extraordinary effect – a 50 yr old man can look like a 15 yr old teenage girl.
- www. IS world wide web! NOT under the duvet!
- NO image or message can be hidden, erased or a change of mind once sent it is there FOREVER on the internet
- Delete anyone on social media who is NOT known to your child
- Keep webcams covered – Smart TV's, i - phones etc – abusers do all they can to engage with children and watch them, film them on the webcam with no intention of playing the game
- Weak passwords are easily hacked make them at least 12 characters & a different password for EVERY account
- Is family screen time under YOUR control?

- Does screen time interfere with family activities?
- Do you manage “snack time” whilst playing games?
- Are they getting enough sleep?
- Royal Society of paediatrics Children should stop screen use every **2 hours** and go for a walk or a snack break etc and recommend switching off devices **an hour** before bed time
 - Keep GHOST MODE ON for Snap Chat .
 - Keep “location services” switched OFF
 - Use “two step verification” for devices
- **It is in bedrooms and bathrooms and private spaces where the greatest risk exists . PLEASE Take devices out of bedroom** – many young children, girls especially aged 8 to 13 are LIVE STREAMING to random people which is a permanent record & sold on the dark web if of sexual interest to abusers. The content being sexual abuse thresholds and VERY explicit taken in their bedrooms on webcams or on mobile phones.

Ask yourself if a paedophile rang your doorbell, would you allow access to your child? By allowing devices to be in private areas that is the risk you take for your child !!

- Remind children of the danger of the DARK WEB and where their images end up if accessed from their social media accounts hacked by child abusers and then sold on into their community
- NOBODY under the age of 18 years old can take a sexualised photo of themselves - in law they are guilty of “possession”, send it on and guilty of “distribution “
- SEXTING is illegal and if reported to police could end up with a REPORT against their name detrimental to their future life due to DBS checks stating “sexualised offence”
- SEXTING includes wearing underwear – any image which is sexually provocative is illegal
- If your child shows signs of anxiety and depression and this has recently occurred ask WHY, is it connected to behaviours on social media? Assure them you are there to support and help them, we ALL made mistakes when young
- INSTAGRAM is the worst social media platform for causing mental health issues in young people today ALSO the WORST PLATFORM for abusers

grooming children online as young as 5 years old ALSO the worst platform for content encouraging eating disorders

- FORTNITE abusers are contacting through VOICE CHAT turn the chat OFF
- Check on your child if they hide the screen of their phone or keep going out to answer it.
- No child under 13 yrs of age should be on social media. This is guidance from the various apps and platforms, not law

Exploitation and Knives and County lines how to stay safe and where & who the dangers lie

- Remind children of CONSENT – it is important they understand the need for “NO” AND not be coerced otherwise
- PRESS the fact today’s STRANGER is often someone THEIR own or similar age at the start of CSE and county lines
- Stress JOINT ENTERPRISE – guilty by association!!
- Discover where “dangerous “places maybe prevalent in YOUR area
- NEVER give anyone your phone who you don’t know they could ADD A TRACKER OR CALL DROP (entering the phone a gang member number) **BUT ALWAYS HAND IT OVER IF YOU ARE THREATENED** - you don’t want to be stabbed and can always buy a new phone
- NEVER accept cigarettes/money from someone unknown
- NEVER accept a phone from someone other than parents and family
- NEVER walk home with someone they don’t know or invite them into the house – risk of cuckooing
- Remind children to be suspicious of mopeds and bikes hanging around on street corners or shops and school AND AVOID “HOODIES ”
- IF POSSIBLE ask the school if identifiable uniform i.e. blazers can be covered outside and worn in school. Children from independent schools ARE being targeted
- If a situation arises RUN and SHOUT “FIRE” and go to a safe space and tell someone
- ALWAYS have an escape plan when out and about an arranged text word
- ALWAYS know where your child is and with whom and time expected home
- ALWAYS keep mobile phone charged
- Criminal age of responsibility is 10 years old – in Scotland it is 8 years old

- “Joint enterprise” means guilty by association just by being part of a group and a crime happens
- If your child has changed friendship groups, truanting, going out as soon as they come home – where are they going? Follow them if need be! Ground them if they are not where they are meant to be!
- Notice if your child has “post codes” on their belongings and tell school – this is a sign of “turf gangs”
- IF you feel concerned of your child’s behaviours and places they frequent DO TELL SCHOOL! Teachers are there to support you and your family
- **Be observant** : if you spot train tickets lying around; Vaseline; clingfilm; old Nokia phones; burner phones; dongle ; odd packages in your freezer hidden behind rarely used items – could be “ Lithuanian meth “ which needs to be kept frozen called “ Flacker or Crock “
- **Child gangs** – THE THICKER the BMX tyre the higher up the gang status

RESOURCES :

Useful short films: “The Cup of Tea” and “Kayleigh’s love story” found on You Tube and “ Breck Bednar “

Please do read our parental guidance documents and Digital Generation document and download our **guidance videos** :

On our home page : www.freedom-abuse.org for £4.99 for a 7 day download – various topics go top our home page, scroll down to “ online training” click and see the titles

There is a useful tiny word in the English language “NO” use it and mean it!
Remember YOU should be in control!

If you are aware of a crime DO call Crimestoppers UK – **0800 555 111**
 – guaranteed anonymous reporting

Do contact us if you need further advice www.freedom-abuse.org