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30 April 2015

Dear Parents

Advice from Thames Valley Police Regarding Use of Social Media

Please find below advice from the Thames Valley Police School Liaison Offer regarding the safe use of social media. I make no apology for providing this information again, having previously been attached to the Link newsletter dated 17 April 2015, and also being available to view via the school website (<http://www.chilternedge.oxon.sch.uk/esafety.html>).

Following recent notifications from other local schools, and from a number of parents who have reported pupils having been exposed to disturbing and frightening experiences whilst using a variety of websites and apps, form tutors have recently spoken on this subject to their tutees. All pupils have received advice in school, which we reiterate below.

Last term a number of pupils from Chiltern Edge, through no fault of their own, experienced some frightening and upsetting incidents when using a variety of social media sites, including Facebook and Oovoo. Please be aware that pupils from all over the country are experiencing similar problems and that this is not restricted to our area.

- With regard to the attached advice from Thames Valley Police, the section 'Make sure your child understands the following rules ' was brought to students' attention and discussed.
- The CEOPS video link in the letter has also been shown.
- Emphasis was placed on the fact that we do not always know who we are speaking to on line and that there are, sadly, some very unpleasant people on line who do not have the best interests of children in mind.
- All students were advised that if they are unsure or suspicious of **anything** they should speak to their parents, or the school's Safeguarding/Child Protection Officers, Mr Luke and Ms Withers.
- The school acknowledged that this may be repeated information, but that we feel it important enough to keep reminding all pupils of the inherent dangers of social media.

/Continued

Re: **Advice from Thames Valley Police Regarding Use of Social Media**

30 April 2015

I have also taken the opportunity to attach specific advice from the Child Protection Officer at CEOP Command regarding ooVoo. Please do take the time to read this information.

Please e-mail the school if you wish to alert us to any specific sites that are causing concern, or if you have any information which you feel may be useful to the school or the Police. Please mark your communication with the heading "E-Safety Concern", and forward it to Mr Sadler's Personal Assistant, Vicki Matthews (vmatthews@chilternedge.oxon.sch.uk).

Yours faithfully

D Luke
Safeguarding Officer

Encs: Letter from Thames Valley Police
Specific advice from CEOP regarding ooVoo

ooVoo

National Crime Agency
33 Vauxhall Bridge Road
London SW1V 2WG
T: +44 (0)20 7238 2364
April 2015

- ooVoo users are required to be 13 years old.

COPPA, the Child Online Privacy Protection Act, is a United States law designed to protect children under 13 years old from being on age inappropriate websites or apps. We will deactivate the account of any child suspected to be under the age of 13. All social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc) requires users to be 13 years old.

- Set their Privacy Settings to medium or high. Without updating their privacy settings, anyone can contact them and their profile information is visible.

Click here to access our Security section and learn how to update your child's privacy settings - <https://supportcenteronline.com/ics/service/loginSQL.asp>

- Click here to Block and Remove offensive or inappropriate contacts - <http://support.oovoo.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=4244&task=knowledge&questionID=1245>
- If your child receives an unwanted friend invitation be sure to ignore the request and check the box to also block this person from contacting me again.
- Report harassment or inappropriate contact. Contact ooVoo at Support@oovoo.com.

Other tips for increasing your child's online security:

- Do not share personal information with people you do not know, such as your address, school, parents name, etc
- Children often share their passwords. Know your child's passwords and discuss that passwords are "secret" words and should not be shared with friends.
- Children sometimes leave themselves signed in at friend's house on someone else's mobile device or computer. We suggest you remind them to always be sure to log out.

Pam Williams
Child Protection Advisor
CEOP Command

Pam.williams@nca-ceop.gov.uk
www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk



PC 5504 DIX
School Liaison Officer,
Safer Schools Partnership,
Abingdon Police Station,
Colwell Drive Abingdon,
OX14 1AU
April 2015

Advice for Parents and Carers on the Use of Facebook and Other Social Media Sites

Facebook's terms and condition state that all users must be 13 years or older. As such, I strongly recommend that parents do not allow their children who are under 13 years of age to have their own personal account online.

I fully believe the age restriction is to help protect your child from any potential risk that they may encounter while using the site. Yet many children under 13 years of age openly admit to having a Facebook profile/account, and it is often a family member that has helped them set up their account!

Please be aware that if your son/daughter creates a Facebook profile using false details (date of birth etc), not only could they be in breach of Facebook policies but the account could be closed and they could be banned from using Facebook in the future.

The safety and wellbeing of children and young people is a priority, so please note some of the following risks that young people may face while using Facebook or similar sites. These risks are not just for the under 13s, but may be considered greater the younger the child is.

- **Facebook currently uses 'Age Targeted' advertising and your child could be exposed to adverts of a sexual or other inappropriate nature.**
- **Children may accept friend requests from people they don't know in real life, which could increase the risk of inappropriate contact or behaviour, or even worse.**
- **Dialogue, games, applications, groups and content posted or shared on Facebook is not moderated and, therefore, can be offensive, unsuitable for children and even illegal.**
- **Photographs shared by users are not moderated and therefore children could be exposed to inappropriate images or even post their own.**
- **Underage users might be less likely to keep their identities private and lying about their age can expose them to further risks regarding privacy settings and inappropriate behaviour.**

It is strongly recommended that parents and carers are aware of filtering tools or parental controls that can greatly reduce the risk to young people while using the internet. However it is equally important to say that they are not always effective and young people may still be able to access unsuitable content. I believe good communication and regular monitoring of their internet use will help reduce the risks. Talk to your child about their experiences, their likes and dislikes, who they're speaking too, what sites they use and games they play etc. In general monitor their use, **if they don't like you doing that, there's probably a reason why, be suspicious!**

You may want to check the following points:

- **Check their profile is set to private and that only approved friends can see information that is posted**
- **Closely monitor your child's use, and talk to them about safe and appropriate online behaviour such as not sharing personal information, clicking onto unknown links, installing applications and not posting offensive messages or photos.**
- **Please also be aware that young people may talk about personal issues or events that may put themselves, others or their belongings at risk. You wouldn't put an advert in the window of the local newsagent saying you're going abroad for a week's holiday at the end of the month! So why let your child broadcast the fact to 1500 people via Facebook or any other site! Would it put your family home and belongings at greater risk!?**
- **Consider installing the CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) application on www.facebook.com/clickceop on their profile.**
- **Set up your own profile so you can understand how the site works and tell them to have you as a friend, so you know what they are posting online. Have a look at the advice for parents/carers from Facebook www.facebook.com/help/?safety=parents which includes details on how to report incidents.**

Make sure your child understands the following rules:

- **Always keep your profile private and never accept friends you don't know in real life.**
- **Never share your password, it's there to protect your details, keep it to yourself.**
- **Never post anything online that could reveal your identity, home address, phone numbers, email address, school or clubs you attend, pictures of school or club uniform, vehicles, local land marks, places frequented etc.**
- **Always click on links that you can trust and always ask an adult first if you are not sure.**
- **Never agree to meet anyone that you only know online without telling a trusted adult.**
- **Always tell an adult you trust if you feel threatened, see something that makes you feel worried or someone upsets you online.**

- **Do you really need 800 or more friends? Do you trust all your online friends? If not reduce your online friends to a manageable group of trusted people.**

To help illustrate some of the above issues please click on the below link and view the very short film which powerfully demonstrates the possible dangers of posting too much personal information. Think **If you wouldn't print the picture off and hand it out in the street, then it shouldn't be on the internet!**



<http://youtu.be/o8auwnJtqE>

A couple of years ago **ASK FM** was the subject of some concern. With reports of inappropriate, false or bullying type comments being posted by unknown people. This can be very hurtful & upsetting for those targeted, again please monitor and choose carefully what sites you allow your child to visit. Please also be aware that a person can choose **not** to receive comments from anonymous people via **ASK FM**, this can be set up through the 'settings' area of the **ASK FM** site. Ask.fm released a couple of videos for **parents** and **teens** discussing the important topic of safety on Ask.fm. There's also an **Online Safety Guidance**

'**Oovoo**'. More recently though, there appears to be concern with some use of 'Oovoo', another social media site. 'Oovoo' appears to be another instant messaging, voice and video chat tool that is free for registered users. Again I would urge parents to be aware of and monitor their child's use of such sites and apps etc, and of course not allow use of sites you deem inappropriate.

The following link will take you to the 'Safer Internet Site' in which you may find lots of useful info and downloads. www.saferinternet.org.uk

Also visit the CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) service educational site where you will find lots of useful internet safety advice, downloads and short films including '**The Parents' and Carers' Guide to the Internet**'. You will also find information on how to report inappropriate contact on the internet via CEOP's '**Report Abuse**' tab. It is also a very good user friendly site for children of all ages with educational games they can play www.thinkuknow.co.uk

CEOP have also recently released a set of videos called **Know where to go**. This is a series of short instructional videos to demonstrate how to report an unwanted video or image for removal from youtube or Facebook.

Please also visit the Thames Valley Police Website www.thamesvalley.police.uk for lots more Police related information. You can also find us on facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/ThamesVP>

Register for Thames Valley Alert!

<https://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk/>

Follow us on Twitter!

<http://twitter.com/ThamesVP>

And view our latest Youtube films.

<http://www.youtube.com/thamesvalleypoliceuk>

