



Outer North East Police team
Wetherby Police Station
Boston Road
Wetherby
LS225HA

Cyber Issues

Dear parent or guardian,

I am a cyber point of contact which involves giving talks and educating children and parents on internet safety.

Did you know that you have to be 13 years old to set up an account with Youtube, Snapchat, Facebook or Twitter without your parent permission. You have to be 14 for LinkedIn and 16 for WhatsApp. Most children these days have some sort of social media account, play online games, have their own email account and use Youtube.

The internet is a great learning tool for children. But with the digital world changing all the time, how can you make sure your child's staying safe? To help with this I have included some useful advice for parents about keeping your children safe online. If you need further information or help the NSPCC website has some great advice for parents.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully

Emma Leighton
Wetherby Ward PCSO

Here are some useful tips for parents about keeping your children safe online:

- Did you know that you have to be 13 years old you set up an account with Youtube, Snapchat, Facebook or Twitter without your parent permission. You have to be 14 for LinkedIn and 16 for WhatsApp.
- Place the computer in a central area of your home where you can monitor it frequently. Get your children used to involvement early. Ask what they're looking at and finding, or who they're visiting.
- Warn your children frequently about the dangers of the internet, just as you warn them about the dangers of drugs, talking to strangers etc.
- Explain the importance of keeping personal information a secret - real names, home address, phone number, sports clubs etc.
- Tell your children never to respond to an angry, obscene or threatening messages. Remind them to call you or another trusted adult if they come across something that makes them feel uncomfortable. Let them know that its not their fault if they receive bad messages.
- Make sure they have safe, strong and memorable passwords. Use symbols such as pa\$\$word (password) or @pple (apple)
- Make sure they have up to date antivirus software on computers, tablets and smartphones
- Check age ratings of games to ensure your kids aren't accessing inappropriate content
- Tell them not to respond to bullying or other abuse on social media and when gaming and to tell you straight away if they are experiencing this
- Set privacy settings to the maximum
- Remind them that what goes on the internet stays on the internet

Make sure they:

- Never share images, send pictures or do anything on a webcam that they wouldn't want family or friends to see and never share images of friends and family without their permission
- NEVER share rude images as you could be breaking the law (even if you didn't take it, it was just sent to you)