



# E-Safety

## Guidance for parents and carers





At New College we see children's safety as our first priority. We are committed to working with parents and other professionals to ensure that our students have a happy and safe learning environment both at college and at home. The information provided in this leaflet provides advice about what you as a parent can do to keep your child safe online.

## What can I do to keep my child safe online?

- Have regular conversations with your child about how they can keep safe online
- If your child has been made to feel uncomfortable online encourage them to talk to you, or an adult that they can trust, for example a teacher or a family member
- Show an interest in what your child is doing online
- Know who your child is talking to online
- Ensure that your child knows never to meet up with someone they only know on line. People might not always be who they say they are
- Set rules and agree boundaries
- Ensure that the websites, social networking sites and games they are using are suitable for them
- Use parental controls to filter, restrict, monitor or report the content
- Ensure that your child knows how to use privacy settings and reporting tools
- Know how to report an online problem

## Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is when someone uses technology, such as the internet or a mobile phone to bully others. Types of cyberbullying include sending nasty text messages or emails, or setting up a hate group on a social networking site. Cyberbullying can be very distressing for a young person as most of the time they don't know who is bullying them.



### **What can I do to prevent my child from being cyberbullied?**

Discuss what cyberbullying is with your child

Inform your child that they must tell you, or a responsible adult such as a teacher straight away if they are being cyberbullied

Ensure that privacy settings are set correctly

### **What should I do if my child is being cyberbullied?**

Ensure that your child does not reply to any messages

Inform your child's school or the police immediately

Save any evidence e.g. text messages or a screenshot of a webpage

Prevent communication from the cyberbully by blocking their email address, mobile phone number and deleting them from social media contacts

Report the cyberbullying to the website it's on

Report the cyberbullying to the ISP (Internet service provider)

## Online Grooming

### **Online Grooming**

Grooming is when someone builds an emotional connection with a child to gain their trust for the purposes of sexual abuse or exploitation. Children and young people can be groomed online or in the real world, by a stranger or by someone they know e.g. a family member, friend or professional.

### **What can I do to prevent my child from being groomed online?**

- Monitor your child's use of the internet. Keep track of how much time they are on line
- Encourage your child to talk to you, a family member about anything that is worrying them or making them feel uncomfortable online
- Know who your child is communicating with online
- Keep the computer in a room the whole family can access
- Monitor your child's use of gaming consoles and mobile phones with internet access
- Never allow your child to meet up with new online friends
- Inform your child never to give out personal information online such as their name, address or date of birth
- Ensure that your child is informed to be wary of online strangers as a person can pretend to be whoever they want to be online
- Inform your child that a social networking site is a public place and that they should think twice before posting comments or uploading photos and information



### What should I do if my child is being groomed online?

- Inform the police immediately
- Any concerns that you have about online grooming can be reported to the **National Crime Agency's CEOP Command**
- Report any child abuse you find hosted by websites to the **Internet Watch Foundation**
- Contact the **NSPCC'S** free 24 hour adult help line on **0808 800 5000** or email them at [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk) or **text 88858**
- Contact the **Stop it NOW helpline on 0808 1000 900** where you can get advice anonymously

### Sexting

The term "sexting" is used to describe the sending and receiving of sexually explicit photos, messages and video clips, by text, email or posting them on social networking sites. It is increasingly done by young people who send images and messages to their friends, partners or even strangers they meet online.

#### What can I do to prevent my child from being affected by sexting?

- Discuss what sexting is and the dangers of sexting with your child
- Monitor how young people can use their mobile phone e.g. set up controls so that only you can authorise the apps that your child downloads
- Ensure that your child is comfortable saying "no", that they know that their body is private and that being asked to "sext" is inappropriate
- Tell your child to come to you if someone asks them to "send" or if they receive an explicit message
- Let your child know that you won't be angry with them but that you just want to make sure that they are safe



### What should I do if sexting affects my child?

- If your child has shared an explicit photo or video of themselves they will be very upset. Stay calm and reassure your child that they have your support to get the issue resolved
- Explore the facts by finding out who the content was shared with initially, who it was passed on to, whether it was done maliciously or it was a joke that went wrong
- Inform your child's Head of Year. They will help your child to deal with any repercussions and support your child at college
- If you suspect that the image has been shared with an adult contact **CEOP** ( The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) who are the national policing lead for online child sexual exploitation
- Contact the website or provider. Social networking sites should remove an image if asked. If the image has been shared via a mobile phone, contact the provider who will be able to provide a new number
- Inform your child to contact **ChildLine**. They work with the Internet Watch Foundation who will get all known copies of the image of your child remove from the internet

### Further Information

Further information can be found from the sources detailed below:

- NSPCC - [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)
- ThinkuKnow - [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)
- UK - Safer Internet Centre - [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)
- Keeping Kids Safe Online - [www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)
- CEOP - [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)

If you would like to speak to a member of staff at New College about a child protection concern, please contact:

- Mrs E Rudge-Tezcan (Designated Safeguarding Lead)
- Mrs B Walker (Designated Member of Staff)
- Mrs F Rogers (Designated Member of Staff)

# New College Leicester

Learning and Sports Village



Outstanding Progress for All



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