

Parent Information Sheet

- ✓ For children under 13 years –the focus should be on avoiding risk online
- ✓ For children over 13 years –the focus should be on managing risk online
- ✓ In line with the **Children’s Online Privacy Protect Act (COPPA)** children must be 13 years of age or older to use Social Networking Sites (i.e. Facebook, Instagram etc.). If your child has an account on a SNS make sure their settings are private and watch their “friends/followers”. Also check the age your child is online. For more information on the various Social Networking Sites check out the following:
 - A Parent’s Guide to Facebook <http://www.connectsafely.org/pdfs/fbparents.pdf>
 - A Parent’s Guide to Ask.fm http://www.connectsafely.org/wp-content/uploads/ParentsGuideTo_Askfm-.pdf
 - A Parent’s Guide to Twitter http://www.swimming.org/assets/uploads/library/Parents_Guide_to_Twitter_1.pdf
 - A Parent’s Guide to Instagram http://www.connectsafely.org/wp-content/uploads/instagram_guide.pdf
 - A Parent’s Guide to Snapchat http://www.connectsafely.org/wp-content/uploads/snapchat_guide.pdf
- ✓ When searching online use safer search engines for younger children such as Safe Search Kids <http://www.safesearchkids.com/> or Kid Rex <http://www.kidrex.org/> Visit www.google.ie/familysafety/ for more information.
- ✓ YouTube is designed for children aged 13 years and over so parental involvement is central. YouTube hosts some very funny videos (Sminky shorts etc.), in addition to educational videos but unfortunately some childlike videos have also been edited (e.g. Dora the explorer). Use safety mode to filter search results (last option on the bottom of the page – make sure it is turned on). Check out YouTube’s Policy and Safety Hub for more information <http://www.youtube.com/yt/policyandsafety/>
- ✓ For online gaming check the content of the games. The PEGI rating system offers some good advice for parents <http://www.pegi.info/en/index/> Remember games are rated based on content, not skill level!

- ✓ Access parental controls for your child's gaming console. For a step-by-step guide on parental controls for Xbox 360 see <http://support.xbox.com/en-IE/billing-and-subscriptions/parental-controls/xbox-live-parental-control> For a step-by-step guide on parental controls for PlayStation Network see https://support.us.playstation.com/articles/en_US/KC_Article/PS4-Parental-Controls/
- ✓ Access parental controls for your child's mobile phone and keep mobiles out of the bedroom especially at night. The main mobile operators in Ireland – Meteor, O2, Vodafone and 3 have published a booklet to explain the additional features of modern mobile phones. This booklet can be downloaded from here https://www.vodafone.ie/download?id=ICIA_PARENTS_GUIDE.PDF
- ✓ There are many apps that can monitor what your child is doing on their mobile device such as Mobile Minder and Selfie Cop. Talk to your child about using these apps as part of the agreement with using their device. For more information on best parental control/monitoring apps 2016 see <http://www.tomsguide.com/us/best-parental-control-apps,review-2258.html>
- ✓ Cyber-bullying is a behaviour issue, not a technology problem. Appropriate behaviour online is the same as appropriate behaviour in real life. It is therefore imperative that we teach our children how to be respectful and responsible when online.
- ✓ From speaking with students all across Ireland, chatting online is mainly done using Facebook and its various linked accounts such as askfm and tumblr, MSN, Gmail, SKYPE and online gaming. Increasingly Apps such as WhatsApp, Snapchat and Viber are used to chat. Parents should discuss with children from a young age, what is okay to share online and what is not (e.g. personal details). Parents should be aware of how their child is chatting online (i.e. to friends or strangers aka randomers? through text or webcam?) Parents can familiarize themselves with online chat lingo if they are concerned about their child's online chatting. See www.transl8it.com/ or www.netlingo.com/ for more information.
- ✓ See www.mgmstraining.ie "News Blog" for articles, updates etc.
- ✓ Remember **Parental Involvement is key!!!!**