Archbishop Temple School

Online Safety Newsletter: Easter 2020

Home Schooling the safe way

As we reach the end of the second week of home schooling, I am sure there are a number of tools you are using to help aid the process and hopefully you aren't experiencing too many pitfalls. To help ease this transition there are a number of things you can be doing to ensure home schooling runs smoothly and safely.

As the period of isolation continues, unfortunately this means that predators, fraudsters and criminals increase their activity to prey on the unsuspecting or vulnerable. We all need to be extra vigilant especially with our and our children's online presence

Should you or your children experience any online safety issues please remember that there are a number of reporting facilities open to you. Each social media platform should have the facility to report and block users who are behaving in an inappropriate or illegal manner, the advice it always to use this facility first.

External to each of the platforms are the following different options open to you:

This is a new website that provides lots of advice and allows reporting of any harmful content online.

http://reportharmfulcontent.com/

This website is the Child Exploitation and Online Protection command of the police where online abuse can be reported.

https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/

The Internet Watch Foundation are the body where a report of child sexual abuse content both photographic and non-photographic can be made.

https://www.iwf.org.uk/

Lots of help, advice and support available here call 0800 111 or visit https://www.childline.org.uk/

Firefly also has a reporting tool that can be used to report online safety concerns, these will be reported to Archbishop Temple School either anonymously or by entering information so that Mrs McLean can contact you to discuss a matter or gain further advice.

Please visit https://archbishoptemple.fireflycloud.net/ict-and-computing/online-safety for access to all Firefly resources.

House Party
Age rating (12+, 15)

Apple rate Houseparty as 12+ and Google Play urge 'parental guidance', but Common Sense Media and others recommend that users should be at least 15. Houseparty's own privacy policy require users to be at least 13 so there is a lot of conflicts here and we urge parents to investigate where their children are using this App.

1-8 people can have a video chat, group and private notes can be sent as well as push notifications when users are 'in the house'.

Links to 'rooms' can be shared publicly including to other platforms where uninvited users can join. Uninvited guests can then easily 'friend' without an invitation.

'Rooms' should be locked to prevent uninvited guests from joining – this can be done by default if 'private mode' is selected.

There are a number of red flags with this app, please take care and check what children are doing. Houseparty has also been reportedly hacked last week.

Mental Health

Infectious disease outbreaks, such as the one we are now experiencing can be an extremely stressful time for all and can have an impact on our mental wellbeing. Whilst it is important to stay informed there are things that we can do to aid wellbeing at this time.

The government are asking us to stay at home, which will no doubt mean that there will be longer periods of time spent on social activities such as watching TV and keeping up-to-date with social media. That said, it is essential that this time is well spent on these activities, for example, to keep in touch with friends and family. It is good advice to limit exposure to news channels and social media news streams that have a tendency to sensationalise current events or in some cases create fake news. Watching the prime ministers daily briefings to gain accurate information should be sufficient to remain fully informed.

Further advice can be gained from the Mental Health Foundation can be found here
https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak

Home tutoring

This is a widely accepted addition to a child's learning in school, traditionally a tutor whom you had vetted would visit the home and deliver lessons and tutoring to help aid learning and ease exam stress. Unfortunately, this is now not a possibility under the new government guidance to stay at home and you may be tempted to reach out to the online world to find additional help for your child. Again we urge caution and vigilance when doing so.

Home tutoring using the virtual world will involve connecting via video link to the tutor that you employ, this means that they will have a direct connection to your child. There are a number of ways that you can ensure that the tutor is legitimate and that your child is safe.

1. Consider potential tutors qualifications and experience
2. Ensure that potential tutors have an up-to-date DBS (Disclosure & Baring Service, formerly CRB) check
3. Ask for two referees, and follow them up with a phone call
4. Ask for details of parents of other pupils (whom you may know) and follow them up with a phone call
5. Ask lots of questions, genuine tutors will be glad to answer all your queries and dispel any worries
6. Allow your child to also meet the tutor and check that they are happy and comfortable
7. Agree a fixed time and duration of the tutoring session as well as a price
8. Agree which platform will be used, it would be advisable to try out the platform first so that you know how it works. Zoom is a popular platform of choice in the current climate
9. Decide where in the house the tutoring session takes place, advisably in a room where a parent is but that is also quiet, not a bedroom or office that can be shut away.

Scams

Since the outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic there have been a huge increase in online scams. These may include malicious websites set up to either steal your data using phishing scams, sell you goods from websites that don't exist or distribute malware such as Ransomware to infect your devices. Advice and further information can be found at https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/swgfl-cyber-security-advice-during-coronavirus/ they advise:

1. Ensure that you have good anti-malware software on all devices and that it is up to date
2. Be suspicious of websites that you haven't heard of before or that are selling 'the latest thing' or simply hand sanitizer etc or
3. Investigate before you buy, if it sounds too good to be true it probably is. The following is a good place to gain reviews on companies and products before you buy https://uk.trustpilot.com/
4. Most importantly stick to reputable retailers to be sure to avoid being scammed.

Further support

Mrs McLean is available on email at h.mclean@archbishoptemple.com for further help and advice should you require any assistance outside of school.