

Online Safety @ Bishop Challoner Catholic College

With the Christmas period not long ago, there is a possibility that students will now have new digital devices which they did not have previously. These could include smart phones, tablets, smart watches, games consoles and laptops. Even if the device is not new, there are still precautions to take and new developments we believe you need to be aware of in order to best protect the safety of the child when using these devices. This is the purpose of the Online Safety Updates.

Online Monitoring System

Visigo is a monitoring software that Bishop Challoner Catholic College uses as a safeguarding tool to ensure that computing devices are used within the limits of the Acceptable Users Policy. When devices are turned on, keystrokes are constantly logged (not including passwords) and screenshots are captured when an infringement or a cause for concern is detected by the monitoring system. This operates both onsite at Bishop Challoner and away from the site at home and other places of business or residence.

Alerts are categorised by levels with 5 being the most serious. Monitoring staff are automatically alerted by email for any event at level 3 and above, event types included in these categories include-Vulnerable Person, Terrorist, Cybersexer, Cyberbully, Cybercriminal, General Risk.

It is the responsibility of parents/carers to monitor students online activity outside of school hours.

PS4™



Nintendo®

Video Game Consoles: Parental Controls

Many games now include 'in-game purchases', a process that allows the player to exchange real money for in-game items. Furthermore, all of the major consoles include a digital store to allow the purchase of digital games. By default, these stores have no age restrictions in place allowing the user to purchase any game; if a payment method is stored on the device for ease of use, this would mean a child could purchase an 18+ game without parental consent.

- PS4- support.playstation.com/s/article/PS4-Parental-Controls
- Xbox- support.xbox.com/en-GB/browse/xbox-one/security
- Nintendo- www.nintendo.com/switch/family-fun/parental-controls/



Current Known Trends and Issues

As well as the usual warnings and concerns, these are developing issues around apps and platforms that we believe you should be aware of.

Discord

Discord is a voice and text app and site, designed specifically for gamers but has been utilised by many others. The main principle is that chat forums are invite only meaning that a user has to either be invited to an existing room or, create a new one and invite others to that. There is a Discord server for almost anything in existence, for example there are servers for people who want to discuss home improvement.

Discord is produced and maintained by reputable people. However, the nature of the service that they provide means that users could potentially be exposed to inappropriate material; conversations and connections.

For a parent's guide to Discord please see the following link - blog.discordapp.com/parents-guide-to-discord-c77d91793e9c

Yubo

Yubo, formerly Yellow, is a social media app encouraging teens to find new friends by allowing them to swipe left or right to connect and live stream. It's gained popularity among school-age teens who use it to chat with friends one-on-one or in groups and connect with other users through live video streaming. There is a minimum age limit of 13 on Yubo and anyone under 17 who sets up a profile has to confirm they have the permission of a parent or guardian. 13 to 17-year-olds have their own community that is separate from adults who use the app - this however can be circumnavigated through lying about age.

Like other social networking apps, the ability to communicate with others via both instant message and live video is where the potential pitfalls lie. Furthermore, the swipe left and right feature is identical to that seen in a prolific dating app and turns the friend making process into a first glance opinion; someone could easily use a different picture to gain 'likes and trick people.

We are advising parents and carers to communicate with their child regarding this app.

More information can be found at - internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/yubo-formerly-yellow-social-media-app-parents-need-know/

Netbook Monitoring System Smartphone/Tablet: Parental Controls

All of the major brand smartphones allow for some parental controls. Similar to video game consoles, a lot of apps on these devices allow in-app purchases, and there is also a built-in app store on each major platform which allows the purchase of digital content.

- Apple Devices- support.apple.com/en-gb/HT201304
- Android Devices (Samsung)- support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738?hl=en-GB

Further Online Safety Support

More information regarding aspects of online safety can be found at:

www.internetmatters.org/issues

www.saferinternet.org.uk

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>

BC14 Updates

As well as this Online Safety Update, Bishop Challoner publishes regular online safety updates as part of the BC14 publication that can be found on our website. Look out for the 'Online Safety Blast' section to see updates regarding emerging issues and trends.

