PGHS Online Safety Newsletter

NATIONAL ONLINE SAFETY UPDATE

It has been reported that Sexting messages including images and texts have dramatically increased during the pandemic. Data from the safeguarding app **SafeToNet** found that 'sexts' typed out by children in the UK rose 183% during lockdown with a 55% rise in inappropriate messages drafted during normal school hours.

It is our aim here at Penwortham Girls' High School to create resilient and socially responsible users of technology, to do this we need to provide them with all the information they need to not only stay safe online, but also to be able to know what to do if things go wrong. Talking to children about issues and what they do online is key to helping to keep them safe.

It is a very worrying statistic that children are increasingly involved in taking and sharing inappropriate images of themselves. This is not only **illegal but can lead to the ultimate consequence of one of these images out there on the Internet.**
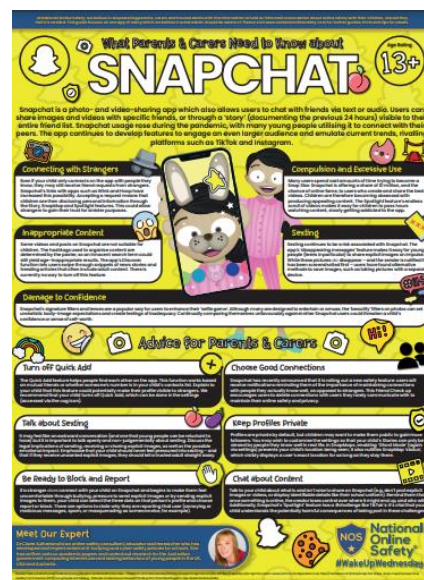
Further information to support you as a parent/ carer can be found on the CEOP website using the link below;

https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/How-can-CEOP-help-me-YP/How-can-CEOP-help-me-parent/

GUIDE TO SNAPCHAT

Snapchat is a photo- and video-sharing app which also allows users to chat with friends via text or audio. Users can share images and videos with specific friends, or through a 'story' (documenting the previous 24 hours) visible to their entire friend list. Snapchat usage rose during the pandemic, with many young people utilising it to connect with their peers. The app continues to develop features to engage an even larger audience and emulate current trends, rivalling platforms such as TikTok and Instagram. Follow the link for further details.
https://nationalonlinesafety.com/hub/view/guide/snapchat

If you have any questions or concerns about online safety please email s.hall@penworthamgirls.lancs.sch.uk