

# What Parents Want To Know

*It is important to capture the views of pupils, parents and carers regarding their online activities. An educational establishment can then share, on a regular basis, 'useful and meaningful' information via:  
newsletters, the school web site, the school official social media sites, open days/evenings, assemblies, focus days, events where the pupils are the facilitators etc*

# Dudley's Cybersurvey 2016

- The results from Dudley's most recent 'cybersurvey' indicate that not all children and young people are taught to stay safe online by their parents or carers
- The research shows that parents are most likely to give online safety advice to eleven year olds, but after this age, their input falls away until fewer than half of fifteen year olds receive parental input, even though they are at the highest risk of experiencing online problems
- The results also show that parents and carers deliver more online safety advice to daughters and considerably less to sons
- Being able to turn to a parent or carer when things go wrong is vital for keeping children and young people safe

# Main concerns (shared with staff)

- Parents feel there is a gap between younger and older generations regarding online safety and knowledge in general
- Parents worry as their children are 'cleverer' than them with IT – so even with parental settings in place, young people can still access 'things', as they know a way around these settings
- Concern from parents about the amount of pornography online and images that are displayed e.g. via google images
- Some are pro-active about protecting youngsters online – but are worried about putting in boundaries and rules. What happens when their children visit other people's houses - they can't safeguard them forever, but want limitations/boundaries to still be in place
- Differences in couples – some are ok with usage, some less so – making it really clear that working as a team to protect children online is very important
- Children refuse to come off gaming machines or Minecraft and are glued to screens- concerns over the amount of time spent online

# What Parents/Carers say

- I can't keep up with my child. I feel useless. I don't understand the Apps they are using
- What do I need to know about the Apps my child is using? Are they safe?
- How can I limit the time my child spends on line?
- My child's older brother/sister plays 'COD'. My child doesn't understand why I won't let them use it yet
- I am separated from my partner. When my child goes to their house, the 'online boundaries' are different and sometimes undermining
- When can my child have a mobile phone? Their friends have one
- All my child's friends are using this App. Peer pressure is massive. I feel so guilty about saying 'you can't'-am I a bad parent?

# What Parents Want To Know

- How do I set filters on my home wireless network?
- How do I put in boundaries early?
- What is the best way to prevent trojans and viruses – protect banking information, passwords etc?
- How do I protect my child from coming across inappropriate contact?
- I understand that young people can access sexually explicit material easily online. What do I do if this happens?
- My child plays online games with people they don't really know. Is this a problem?
- How would I stop my child being a twitter troll?
- How do I stop my child being radicalised?

# Advice to Parents and Carers From Children and Young People In Dudley

- Show an interest – ask them what apps, games and websites they use and learn about the safety features on them (these are usually in the settings tab )
- Help them feel comfortable talking to you – make sure they know they can talk to you about anything – if you don't know the answer you can research it online together
- Ask them to show you any messages they don't like
- Ask them where else they can go if they don't feel comfortable talking to you about stuff (another relative /school nurse / Childline etc)
- Respect your children's privacy – do not 'snoop' in their phone /or check the websites they have visited
- If something bad happens to your child online, support them – don't punish them by taking away their mobile / internet access –  
it's not their fault

# Advice to Parents and Carers

## From Children and Young People In Dudley

- Watch out for any changes in your child if you see any, share your concerns with the school to see if they have noticed anything
- ‘Clean’ your child’s friend lists with them to make sure they **really** know all of their friends and who they are talking to
- Tell them to keep passwords and personal details safe
- Get a good firewall and use parental blocks where appropriate (depending on their age and maturity)
- Don’t feel like you have to know everything and don’t feel silly if you don’t – look it up or ask somebody, your child will probably be able to tell you!
- Go to information sessions at school to learn the most up to date information

**The below websites will help parents to do all of the above and know how to deal with things if they go wrong!**

- <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>
- [www.parentinfo.org](http://www.parentinfo.org)
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/>
- <https://www.dudleysafeandsound.org/onlinesafety>
- <https://www.net-aware.org.uk>
- [www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)
- <https://actionfraud.police.uk/>