Issue : February 2022



Safer Internet Day 2022

All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online

The world of gaming is ever-evolving. From mobile apps to gaming tournaments, gamers of all kinds have the chance to explore different worlds in different ways, creating communities and connecting with people all over the globe. While this can be very exciting for younger audiences particularly, it can be challenging parents, carers and adults less involved in this space to understand the issues children may face when gaming online.

Check out— (1) OPEN Project | Facebook

This week they will have a post each day covering topics which effect young people in Shetland.

The posts will include information and advice about -

⇒ Sharing nudes
⇒ Grooming (light hearted poster)
⇒ Sextortion - privacy settings and risks of video chatting with strangers (recording)
⇒ Online reputation – Social Media profiles aren't the whole story and are always ONLY the best side of people, Only the good things
⇒ Video Chat Scavenger hunt (with friends) – fun activity for a Friday

Some Tips to help keep you child safe whilst gaming online -

- **Teach your child basic internet safety. Have an open dialog with the young person so that they know they can come to you for help if they are worried about anything that has happened online or are concerned about other peoples online behaviours. Use the resources below for internet safety advice.**
- **Involve yourself with your child's game. This can be difficult but if done can help teach younger children how to deal with others online, as not everyone can be nice.**
- **Set rules and discuss online behaviours such as limiting playing time, having manners and using appropriate language and not sharing personal information about themselves or others with strangers.**

Gaming for young children

How can I make sure my child's games are appropriate for them?

- **Use 'airplane' mode settings on your tablet or smartphone. That way, they can play offline without making accidental purchases or connecting with someone they don't know. Use PEGI ratings and App store ratings to ensure your children are playing age-appropriate game.**

The following webpage is full of resources for educators, schools, youth clubs and families to engage and support young people on the safe use of the internet.

Link to Safer Internet Centre Education Packs for Schools and Families:
Safer Internet Day 2022 - UK Safer Internet Centre

Further information:
BBC Own It—Own It - A place to help you boss your life online - Own It - BBC
Thinkuknow—Thinkuknow - home
CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) —https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/
IWF (Internet Watch Foundation) —https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/
NSPCC—https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/
Safershetland—www.safershetland.com

If you have any questions or are interested in arranging an internet safety session, please contact Rona Macintyre, (01595) 744411 or e mail rona.macintyre2@shetland.gov.uk.