

Internet Safety and Cyber bullying

Tuesday 1st

March 2010

What do we treasure most?

OUR CHILDREN

WE WANT TO

KEEP THEM

SAFE

Two areas

Internet Safety and Cyber bullying



What is social networking?

Social networking websites were originally set up in the late 1990s to enable friends to stay in touch with each other. In 2003 Friendster was launched and soon became the most successful website at using the 'Circle of Friends' technique for connecting people.

- MySpace ...
- Twitter....
- Facebook...
- Bebo... The Sunday Independent recently claimed it was the most popular website in Ireland.

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Why do teenagers do this?



- They like it, and they can.
- SNW site becomes a personalised space where they can present themselves in a way that they control.

What is Bullying?

“Bullying is the repeated aggression, verbal, psychological or physical, conducted by an individual or group against others”

(Dept of Education '93)

TYPES OF BULLYING

- **Verbal Bullying**
- **Physical Bullying**
- **Gesture Bullying**
- **Exclusion Bullying**
- **Extortion Bullying**
- E-bullying

Signs and Symptoms

- Visible signs of anxiety and distress-refusal to say what is wrong.
- Unexplained cuts and bruises.
- Damage or loss of clothing or possessions.
- Reluctance to go to school.
- Unexplained changes in mood or behaviour.
- Unexplained illness.



Cyber bullying

Cyber bullying includes the following:

- Sending nasty, mean or threatening messages, emails, photos or film
- Silent phone calls.
- Putting up nasty posts or pictures on a bulletin board, website or chat room.
- Saying hurtful things in a chat room.
- Pretending to be someone else in a chat room or message board or text message and say horrible things..
- Accessing someone's accounts to scare them or make trouble for them



What makes cyber bullying different?

- When they are online young people can hide behind the anonymity that the Internet can provide.
- The big difference between writing nasty messages on the back of a school book and posting it on the Internet is that the messages can be seen by a very wide audience almost instantly.
- Young people posting messages on the Internet do not feel as responsible for own their online actions as they do in 'real life' as they don't fear being punished for their actions.
- This type of behaviour is often outside of the reach of schools as it often happens outside of school on home computers or via mobile phones.



What makes cyber bullying different?

(Part 2)

- Young people are often fearful of telling others about being bullied because they fear that the bullying may actually become worse if they tell.
- They are often also afraid to report incidents, as they fear that adults will take away their mobile phone, computer and/or Internet access.
- Cyber bullying can happen any time and any place and for many children, home is no longer a safe haven from bullying.



How do I report inappropriate material

- **Type in Report Abuse to Google and you get a selection of sites**
- **Use the red report abuse button on the bebo page**
- **If everybody reported abuse then it would be a far safer world**
- **http://www.nymex.com/report_abuse.aspx**
- **http://www.nymex.com/report_abuse.aspx**
- **<http://www.ecops.be/webforms/Default.aspx?Lang=EN>**
- **http://www.savethechildren.net/alliance/get_involved/report/index.html**
- **http://www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com/report_abuse.html**
-

What advice can I give my child

Don't

- Post your cell phone number, address, or the name of your school
- Post your friends' names, ages, phone numbers, school names, or addresses
- Add people as friends to your site unless you know them in person
- Communicate with people you don't know

What advice can I give my child

Don't

- Give out your password to anyone other than your parent or guardian
- Meet in person with anyone you first "met" on a social networking site
- Respond to harassing or rude comments posted on your profile
- Make or post plans and activities on your site
- Post sexually provocative photos

DO

- Set privacy settings so that people can only be added as your friend if you approve them and that people can only view your profile if you have approved them as a friend
- Remember that posting information about your friends could put them at risk
- Consider going through your blog and profile and removing information that could put you at risk
- Delete any unwanted messages or friends who continuously leave inappropriate comments
- Report comments to the networking site if they violate that site's terms of service
- Save or print questionable activity and include date and time
- Tell your parents or guardian if anything happens online that makes you feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused

What Does the School Do

- No student is allowed in the computer room without a teacher
- All students have their own individual desktop account
- Students are assigned particular seats in the computer room
- Certain Sites are blocked through the Department of Education server

Practical Steps

1. Keep your internet connection/usage in a public place in your home
2. Embrace what is good about the internet
3. Keep up to date with developments and lingo
4. If you feel your son/daughter is in danger act immediately
5. If you feel your son/daughter is been bullying the school can help

School Anti Bullying Leaflet/policy

Check out www.moatecs.com

Internet Safety and Cyber bullying
information