

Online and Digital Safety

16th April 2018

Dear Parent,

All staff at Academy Primary School strive to keep all of our pupils safe. One area in which our children can be particularly vulnerable, is when they are using the Internet. Whilst in school, we have a filtered Internet service, and our children will be taught how to keep themselves safe through the 'Safer Internet Day' and through lessons in all of our classes in school.

To help you to encourage safer use of the Internet at home, we are providing a copy of the magazine 'Digital Parenting' for each family. This magazine gives a lot of helpful information and advice on film and game ratings, setting parental controls and information on social media apps. We also recommend that you register on the website <u>vodafonedigitalparenting.co.uk/digital-parenting-magazine</u> to receive future editions of the magazine free of charge.

We also want to highlight a **PSNI Internet Safety Presentation** in Ballynahinch Primary school on **Thursday 26**th **April**. This event will cover the latest apps, how young people are using social media and how to keep our children safe online. Please see attached invitation for further information.

We will be adding some other useful website links to the school website to offer further advice on keeping your child safe online.

We also have some parents guides for WhatsApp, ooVoo, kik messenger, Omegle, YouNow, YouTube, Snapchat and Instagram. If you would like a copy of any of these, please ask at the front office.

Thanking you for your continued support,

Anne Logan (UICT)

Gillian Johnston-Wood (Child Protection)





27th March 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian

Newry, Mourne and Down Policing and Community Safety Partnership would like to invite you to attend an Internet Safety Presentation in Ballynahinch Primary School, Croob Park, Ballynahinch on Thursday 26th of April 19:00-21:00, in conjunction with local police.

We are keenly aware that internet safety is becoming an issue even earlier for younger pupils and that as parents we can struggle to stay up-to-date in an ever changing digital landscape. You may still think that your child is too young, however recently a child aged under 10 within this District, shared indecent images of themselves. A lot of primary school aged children now have smart phones and there are many ways in which new apps with secret messaging facilities can be used to hide messaging even from parents who regularly check their children's phones.

This event will cover the latest apps, how young people are using social media and what you, as parents and guardians; can do to help keep your children safe online.

We cannot stress enough how much this problem is growing; with new apps being created all the time. The best way to help prevent this is to be informed and help us to safeguard your child. REIM Training solutions will be delivering a workshop on computer/internet parental controls, using safe search features, setting up internet filters, the "dos" and "don'ts" of social networking, cyberbullying, how to keep children safe while gaming online, controversial websites - current sites that may cause concern and internet risks e.g. sexting, online gambling, pornography.

Refreshments are provided and there is no charge for this event however we do need to ensure we provide enough to go round so please rsvp to pcsp@nmandd.org

Kind Regards

Sgt Suzanne Cochrane

Down Neighbourhood Team

Andrew Kernaghan

PCSP NM&D