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| www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/facts/pdfs/fs295207.pdf Developing a Scout Website Factsheet | |
| Child Protection advice from HQ | www.scoutbase.org.uk/hq/child-protection/ |
| GLNE Net Safety website | www.glnet-scouts.org.uk/netsafety/ |
| GLNE Child Protection website | www.glnet-scouts.org.uk/childprotection/ |
| International Association of Internet Hotlines | https://www.inhope.org/ |
| Connect Safely | www.connectsafely.org/ |
| Chat Danger | www.chatdanger.com/ |
| BBC Cartoon on 'Safe Surfing' | www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/help/safesurfing/ |
| Kid Smart from Child Net International | www.kidsmart.org.uk/ |
| Safe Kids | safekids.com/ |
| Get Safe Online | www.getsafeonline.org/ |
| Webwise from the BBC | www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/ |
| Be Safe Online | www.besafeonline.org/ |
| Get Netwise | www.getnetwise.org/ |
| Internet Watch Foundation | www.iwf.org.uk/ |
| Child Exploitation & Online Protection Centre | www.ceop.gov.uk/ |

'Wise up' with these websites



WEBWISE

Advice for leaders on using internet technologies

Please make sure that all young people in Scouting are aware of the excellent advice from www.kidsmart.org.uk :

- S**afe
Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information - such as your full name, email address, phone number, home address, photos or school name - to people you are chatting with online
- M**eeting
Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' or carers' permission and even then only when they can be present
- A**ccepting
Accepting emails, IM messages, or opening files, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems - they may contain viruses or nasty messages!
- R**eliable
Information you find on the internet may not be true, or someone online may be lying about who they are
- T**ell
Tell your parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried online

Jargon and software: Many leaders are unaware of technologies and terminologies used online. Be sure to visit the GLNE Netsafety page for advice and simple explanations of the terms and types of programs mentioned on this card.

Forums allow users to post notices up, much like an old-fashioned bulletin board. Be sure to only allow registered and verified users to post on forums and to ensure that messages are moderated and checked for content. Keep an eye on private messages sent via the forum software as well.

Instant Messaging allows you to chat in real time by using a program such as 'MSN' or 'Jabber'. Leaders need to think carefully about what they are typing and need to be careful not to engage in a conversation that you wouldn't normally have in front of other leaders and young people. It would be advisable to turn on the logging feature and keep a record of all the 'chats' and to report anything that was inappropriate to a responsible leader straight away.

Text Messaging (sending text messages via a mobile phone) can be a quick and easy method of communication. Leaders need to be aware that the content of short text messages can easily be misconstrued and need to think carefully about exchanging photos. Inappropriate content such as 'dirty jokes' and rude photos or videos should never be sent between leaders and young people.

Social Networking sites such as Myspace, Bebo and Facebook encourage users to 'network' with each other by sharing likes, dislikes, thoughts, photos and videos. Leaders need to take care when communicating with young people via these mediums that they do not engage in any activities that they would not consider doing face to face. Do not chat with young people and exchange the type of messages you would with your 'friends down the pub'.

Emails should always be carefully written and stick to the guidelines laid down on the 'Yellow Card'. Take time to review the content of an email and who you are sending it to before you let it loose on the internet. Do not pass on hoax emails, attachments, links to websites, jokes etc without carefully checking content and facts.

Websites can be an excellent resource and communication tool. Leaders should be aware of the advice given for Scouting Websites by HQ in their factsheet and should take care to only pass on links to websites that are appropriate for young people.

Contact with young people, using a website, mailing list, text messaging, emails, instant messaging and other technology can bring a great benefit to improving communications and relationships in Scouting. However, leaders should be aware that the advice given on the 'Yellow Card' also applies to contact online with young people.

Adults Online: Scout Leaders should be aware of how issues to do with internet safety directly relate to their role in Scouting. Scout Leaders should be aware of the advice given for Scouting Websites by HQ in their factsheet and should take care to only pass on links to websites that are appropriate for young people.

Benefits & Risks

Modern technology and the internet can be a useful and powerful tool in the education and development of young people. As Scout Leaders we need to be aware of some of the risks associated with using this technology and to ensure that the young people in our care are 'trained and prepared' to use the technology safely.

However many adults find it difficult to understand the intricacies of modern media such as Instant Messaging, emails, websites and text messaging. The risks for children when using the internet and mobile phones include:

Contact: Potential contact from someone online who may wish to bully or abuse them. It is important that children know they people they speak to online may not be who they say they are. They must learn to keep not to give out their personal details and agree not to meet anyone unsupervised.

Content: Inappropriate material is available to children online. Filtering software and a set of rules can be helpful but they are not fully effective and there is no substitute for supervision by an adult who is aware of the dangers. There are other legal issues to consider such as illegally downloading copyrighted material.

Commercialism: Young people's privacy can be invaded by aggressive advertising and marketing schemes. Pop-ups, spam emails, advertising text messages, phishing schemes and such like are an unfortunate fact of life in the modern world. Young people and adults should be aware of how best to deal with these threats.

Help & Advice

Not everyone can be an expert on web technologies and terminologies. Many Scout Leaders are unaware of the way modern media works and do not understand the strange terms and slang used in reference to the technology.

If you have any questions, need advice on any aspect of Internet Safety or simply want to understand what on Earth lol means or what :) is supposed to represent or what Jabber is, then please visit the GLNE Net Safety page at:

www.glnescouts.org.uk/netsafety/