Safeguarding Newsletter

Academy Transformation Trust

DIARY DATES

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Facebook creates 'Parents Portal' to keep children safe

Social media giant Facebook has created a new advice portal that parents can use to increase the safety of their children online, it has been reported.

Named the 'Parents Portal', it is the latest addition to the website's safety centre which was launched in November 2016 in an attempt to educate and guide users in best practices.

The portal comes following an Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (ISPCC) report that warns of the danger of social media and that online activity could be putting young people at risk.

It will also help parents navigate Facebook while offering tips for conversing with children on how to protect themselves when using social media and other websites. In addition to this, expert advice on the topic is accessible through the hub.

Grainia Long, Chief Executive of ISPCC commented: "Cyber safety is the child protection issue of our time; we are only beginning to understand the scale and nature of harm and criminal behaviour towards children online."

"However, we also appreciate the positive impact that technology has on the lives of young people but our work has informed us that our education system and society are failing to prepare children to identity and understand online risks."

Julie de Bailliencourt, Head of Safety Policy at Facebook, believes that by working with experts to help shape Facebook's policies, products and community education programmes, they can create a safe space for everyone to communicate and share.

"Every day, parents come to Facebook to ask for advice in groups, share pictures of their children or just stay connected with family in different places," she explained.

"And for many parents, they also have questions about how Facebook work once their children join."

For the full article from the Independent and further information, please follow the below links.

http://www.independent.ie/business/technology/facebook-creates-new-portal-for-parents-with-top-tips-to-help-children-stay-safe-online-35294181.html

https://www.facebook.com/safety/parents

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How did the NSPCC help to catch a Nottingham rapist?

A St Ann's man, Matthew Salmon, faces jail for horrific rape and abuse of a girl, The NSPCC has revealed how its pioneering scheme helped to catch him, and how the scheme has reached more than 50,000 children in Nottinghamshire.

The 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' programme targets children aged 4 to 11 years on how to recognise and understand abuse, and aims to reach every primary school in the UK.

One girl took part in a workshop at her school and afterwards she spoke to a volunteer about alleged abuse at the hands of a man.

Prosecutor Andrew Vout told the trail of Salmon, 29, that the girl, then aged ten years old, had said in a "matter of fact sort of way" how he made her undress in front of him and made her touch him intimately.

Her claims to an NSPCC volunteer were taken seriously. The girl's head teacher and the police got involved. Salmon was arrested and charged. Last month he was convicted unanimously of multiple rape and child abuse charges.

For the full article from Nottingham Post, Please follow this link.

Kayleigh Haywood
New film tells how teen was groomed, raped & murdered

A chilling film telling the story of a schoolgirl who was groomed online before she was raped and murdered has been released with the backing of her family. The video recounts the last days of Kayleigh Haywood as the 15-year-old was bombarded with messages from a stranger over a period of just two weeks.

She was eventually persuaded to spend the night at Luke Harlow's house before his neighbour, Stephen Beadman, dragged the teenager into nearby woodland, where he raped and murdered her.

The five-minute film, Kayleigh's Love Story, was made by police with support of the schoolgirl's family to warn of the dangers of grooming and sexual exploitation. It has already been shown to more than 35,000 secondary school pupils - and led to 35 children reporting possible cases of grooming to police.

Now the full video has been released online by police in the hope it will encourage more victims to come forward.

For the full article, please follow this link.

Ofsted Safeguarding Briefing

Sean Harford, Ofsted's National Director of Education has written a new blog post. 'Keeping Children Safe in Education and Ofsted's Role' tackles some of the myths about inspecting safeguarding.

For the full blog, please follow this link.

The 'Party Lifestyle' model
The new face of grooming

Historically, the 'boyfriend' model was viewed as the typical method of grooming, generally involving one identifiable male, targeting a female either face-to-face or more recently online. This method follows familiar patterns; a large age gap, befriending of the young person, showering the victim with attention and often with tangible gifts, including hair straighteners, new trainers, mobile phones etc.

The 'party lifestyle' model varies hugely from more traditional methods as it involves grooming whole groups of young people. Typically, young people are groomed by other young people and invited to parties across their local area. These parties are held at a range of venues; hotels, flats, bars and in the summer months, tent parties.

Young people are invited in numbers which gives friendship groups the feeling of security. However, this is an intentional ploy to ensure that the groups of young people are all involved in the process and therefore view the situation as 'normal'. Moreover, it gives the perpetrators access to a greater number of young people.

The parties are often set up purely with the intention of grooming and exploiting young people. Drugs and alcohol are usually offered for free as an incentive to attend more parties; this technique engages groups of young people who see the parties as fun, harmless and enjoyable.

It is only after weeks of attending these parties that repayment is discussed. Sometimes, perpetrators use the fact that young people have enjoyed their offerings.

For the full article form Virtual College, Please follow this link.

Inspecting Safeguarding in Early Years
Reminder of Guidance & Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
By Gill Jones, Ofsted Early Education Deputy Director

For early years registered settings the Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage (EYFS) is the most important document, which sets out the statutory requirements for safeguarding. If you're a provider of early education and care (working with children from birth to the 31 August following their fifth birthday) you must meet the EYFS requirements.

In addition, providers may find the additional information set out in 'Inspecting safeguarding in early years, education and skills settings' a useful supplement to the EYFS. It offers additional insight into what constitutes good practice in relation to all providers who are offering care and education for children.

For the full article and FAQ from Gov.uk, please follow this link.

Meadows Primary School
'Failing over racism and bullying'

Racism and bullying have not been dealt with quickly enough at a school in special measures by Ofsted, according to Inspectors. Ofsted visited The Meadows Primary School in Bitton, Bristol, in November and rated it as 'inadequate'. They also concluded that the school did not use 'appropriate terminology' when referring to different ethnic groups.

South Gloucestershire Council also expressed disappointment and said: "We are working with the school to address the areas identified in the report." In the report, inspectors cited teachers who said they did not have confidence in the way the school was led. It found: "Pupils explained very clearly to inspectors that there have been anti-social incidents in school, such as racism and bullying. These are not always dealt with swiftly enough. This was confirmed by comments submitted by some parents during the inspection.

For the full article from BBC, please follow this link.

Police warn of rise in children bullied by sext

The Sunday Times has reported a chief constable's warning that police are likely to see a rise in cases involving children bullying and threatening each other by posting naked images online.

The newspaper interviewed Ian Hopkins, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police and the National Police Chiefs' Council lead for digital engagement.

The police chief was speaking days after a public schoolboy who threatened to publish explicit photos of a girl on Facebook was given an eight-month suspended jail sentence with a lifetime restraining order banning him from contacting his victim.

Mr Hopkins said he suspected there were thousands of children sexting and not being prosecuted. He is quoted as saying:

"There is so much peer pressure on teenagers to take part. I have spoken to older teenagers who have been through this and they say it is seen as cool to have lots of pictures of young girls semi-naked, and then you are one of the gang. It is very worrying and some of it is quite horrific. I do not think the cases that come to court will slow down."

For the full article from School improvement Net, please follow this link.

Terror attack training for all teachers amid fears that schools and colleges could be targeted

The training comes after a 2012 attack in France by Mohamed Merah, a jihadist who killed three children and a teacher outside a Jewish school.

Teachers are being briefed about what to do if terrorists attack. The nationwide initiative comes amid fears that schools, colleges and universities could be targeted by frantics. It was previously only given to businesses thought to be vulnerable to attack, including football clubs and shopping centres, but has now widened to include schools, colleges and universities.

Thousands of secondary schools and all 154 higher learning institutions are being offered places on the course by the 45 UK police forces. The training comes after Islamic State urged Muslim parents in France to remove their children from schools and to kill teachers in December 2015.

For the full article from The Mirror, please follow this link and for more information about this training, please follow this link.

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When a negative body image becomes a mental health condition

Body image in the digital age
Recent research from the YMCA revealed that 34% of teenage boys and 49% of teenage girls have been on a diet in an effort to change their body shape. An issue which was previously seen as primarily affecting girls has now been shown to be a problem for both genders. The worrying state of young people's body confidence has been an ongoing issue in recent years, with several companies now beginning to address the situation.
Mattel, the company behind Barbie, has recently introduced a new range of the doll that comes in a range of shapes, heights and hair and skin colours in an effort to broaden their perceptions of the female figure.

How does BDD differ from negative body image?
Body hang ups are common. You'd be hard pressed to find many people 100% happy with their body. But for people with Body Dysmorphic Disorder (BDD), a hang up can develop into an all-encompassing obsession which can make them deeply unhappy and put them at risk of other mental health problems, such as depression and self-harm. BDD is a serious mental health condition characterised by a preoccupation with one or more flaws in appearance. These flaws are often minor or even non-existent, leading some to call BDD 'imagined ugliness'.

It isn't vanity
BDD is sometimes confused with vanity or attention-seeking behaviour, but it's important to remember that it's a serious mental health condition. People with BDD genuinely feel flawed or ugly and tend to be socially isolated, in part because they believe other will think they are vain. This often makes it harder to get help. Sufferers of BDD usually focus on what they see as their flaws for up to 8 hours a day, affecting one or all aspects of their life. People can concentrate their negative thoughts on any part of their body, but the most common areas to become preoccupied with are skin, nose and hair.

What are the symptoms of BDD?
The following behaviours are often warning signs of BDD. Some of these things can be warning signs for other issues, and some, like self-consciousness, are a normal part of growing up.

- Highly self-conscious
- Checking appearance in a mirror or reflective surface obsessively
- Distracted – struggling to concentrate on anything other than their appearance
- Increased self-isolation – not wanting to leave the house or go out and see friends
- Continually seeking reassurance about their appearance
- Picking at their skin to make it perfect
- Comparing themselves with other people, including celebrities in magazines or online
- Avoiding certain situations such as having their photograph taken, close-up interactions or being under bright lights/surrounded by mirrors
- Depressive thoughts and comments in relation to body image

Online resources to help people with BDD
BODY: http://www.bodycharity.co.uk/body-dysmorphic-disorder-bdd
Body Dysmorphic Disorder Foundation: http://bddfoundation.org/
OCD UK's section on BDD: http://www.ocduk.org/bdd

For the full article, please follow this link.

X-rated emoji guide

Failing to recognise sexting codes could lead to parents missing clues their children are being groomed, a police force has warned.

The guide, which deciphers abbreviations used for explicit chat, was posted on the PSNI Newry and Mourne Facebook page, and has since been shared thousands of times.

It reveals that simple codes such as 'NIFOC' translates as 'naked in front of computer' and 'IWSN' means 'I want sex now'.

For the full list of abbreviations, please visit the ATT Safeguarding portal.