School Improvement Liverpool & Liverpool Safeguarding Children Board Online Safety Update
May 2017

Welcome to the **twelfth issue** of the regular joint Online Safety Update brought to you by School Improvement Liverpool and Liverpool Safeguarding Children Board.

The aim is to bring you relevant information to assist you in educating children and young people about how to keep themselves safe when using the internet and social media and for you to give them an increased awareness of digital risks.

If you would like to access the resources referenced in this update, you can locate them by going to this link: http://tinyurl.com/silonlinesafety1617

Home Office - Indecent images of children: guidance for young people
This guidance was issued at the end of March and has subsequently been updated with three short videos, just 60 seconds long, and highlight the serious harm that viewing indecent images of children can cause, "Interview", "Superficial" and "Happened". Well worth sharing with staff as part of a staff meeting.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/indecent-images-of-children-guidance-for-young-people/indecent-images-of-children-guidance-for-young-people
On a related note, do have a read of this article (sponsored by HM Government) -

How I Became A Victim Of Sexual Abuse Online (at age 13) - Here Is Ben's Story
http://www.ladbible.com/community/inspirational-i-was-13-when-i-first-suffered-abuse-online-here-is-bens-story-20170413

The Internet Watch Foundation and Everton Football Club
The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has partnered with Everton Football Club to help make the Internet a safer place. The campaign focuses on the ability to report online child sexual abuse content anonymously and confidentially through the IWF Hotline.
Find out more here… https://evertonfc.iwf.org.uk/ and
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XY3M5Yqr-W8

SimSimi
SimSimi is an app that has come to the forefront in recent months, gaining notoriety for being linked to online bullying between groups of children and young people – see this link from the Ineqe Group which explains how this app works –
http://us7.campaign-archive1.com/?u=8c3ff982b241ebd9256f18e39&id=bbc3ac522d&e=9c2a5da38d School

'Blue Whale Game'
POSH, the Professional Online Safety Helpline, part of the UK Safer Internet Centre, has recently seen an increase in the number of calls that they have received about the 'Blue Whale Game' and have now put together advice for schools and parents who are concerned about this "game".
What is the 'Blue Whale Game'?
In the last month many media outlets have reported on the so called 'Blue Whale Game' phenomenon which has been claimed to be responsible for a number of teenager's deaths in Russia. It is through research and consultation with other colleagues it has come to our attention that the 'Blue Whale Game' is an example of a sensationalised fake news story.
Snopes, online fact checking website, have found that although there have been reports of young people committing suicide in Russia over the last six months, of these reported cases none have been found to have a conclusive tie to the game.
You can read the full advice here…
https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/advice-those-concerned-about-%E2%80%98blue-whale%E2%80%99-hoax?utm_content=buffer59b1d&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

5 things teens want parents to know
As part of Childnet's consultation for the upcoming Government Internet Safety Strategy, they asked 65 young people aged 11-18 years, who are part of the Childnet Digital Leaders Programme, a wide range of questions about what they felt could help to make the internet a better place for children and young people.
In one question the young people were asked what they think parents need to understand better when it comes to their digital lives. Here are some of their responses:
1. **Understand that the internet plays an important and positive role in our lives** "[Parents need to understand] that not everywhere on the internet is so unsafe and which areas are." "They need to understand that the internet and social media plays an important part in their kids' lives."
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2. **Understand what we're going through** "I think that parents need to try and understand their children's situation more so that they know what they are going through so that they can try and help them better." "They need to understand the situation so that they can help more efficiently. They may also misinterpret the situation and scold their child rather than helping and empathising."

3. **Be sensitive to our feelings and treat us with care** "They need to understand how children may feel if something goes wrong for them." "They need to treat their kids with care and respect when something happens online."

4. **Give us some freedom to build trust and independence** "I think that parents need to understand that young children do need to be protected on the internet, however sometimes a small amount of freedom can aid them in some important life lessons." "Parents need to understand trust. Of course, every parent trusts their child, but going against them is what makes their children go against them as well." "They can't protect their children all the time and need to let them make their own choices in an adult manner even if it means putting them at risk, giving the child the independence need for life."

5. **We will make mistakes – but you can guide us through this** "They need to trust their children and realise that things can happen that might not be the best thing in the world but they should just talk it out with their child to gain their child's trust." "That children will make mistakes and they need to guide them through the process of what you could do."