



DOVER COURT  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
SINGAPORE

A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

18<sup>th</sup> November 2015

# Parent Workshop: Online Safety



# Focus of the workshop:

- Knowing what your child is doing online
- How do I talk to my child about what they are doing?
- What risks might my child face?
- What tools are there to keep my child safe?



## Why is this important?



“You wouldn’t take your 16 year old child to the end of the pier, push them into the water and yell, ‘Now swim!’ So why do we do that with the internet?”

Professor Stephen Heppell

# Knowing what your child is doing online.

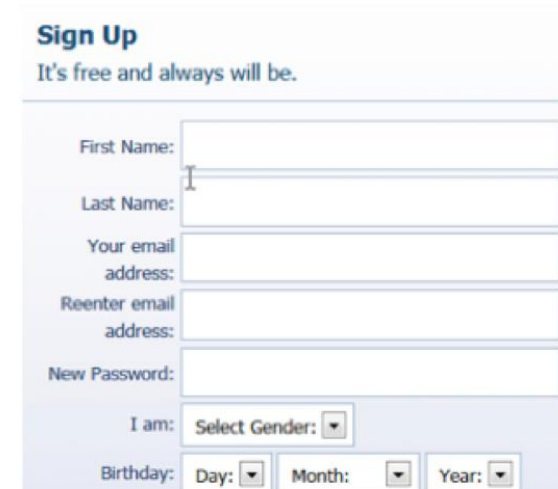
## Socialising:

- Children creating an online network of friends – e.g. Facebook
- To young people they may not see online ‘friends’ as different to offline ‘friends’ e.g. their best friends at school or just someone they have met whilst gaming.
- Online ‘friends’ have access to the things you share; a large group of friends means a large group of people having access to personal details/events/photo’s
- How should I talk to my child about socialising?
  - Know who your friends are!
  - Manage the information shared (set up groups)
  - Never meet up with someone you only know online
  - Know what to do if someone upsets you



# Knowing what your child is doing online.

When Facebook says users must be over the age of **13**, it is a requirement NOT a recommendation. This is because of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (COPPA). COPPA is a United States federal law, which aims to give parents control over what information is collected from their children online



**Sign Up**  
It's free and always will be.

First Name:

Last Name:

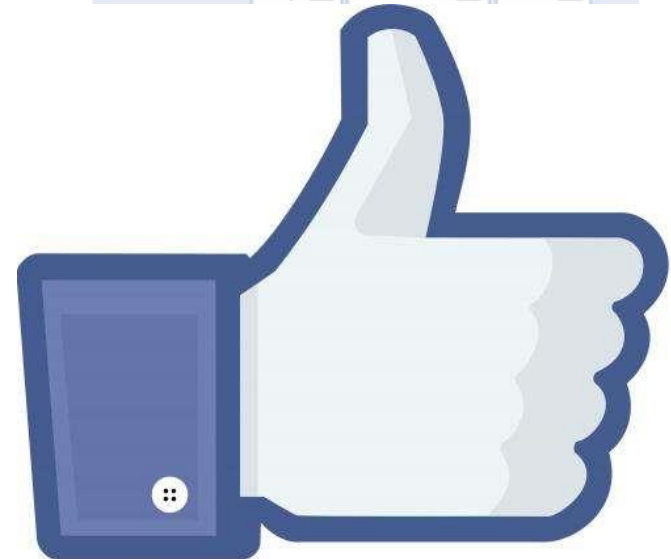
Your email address:

Reenter email address:

New Password:

I am:

Birthdate: Day:  Month:  Year:



# Knowing what your child is doing online.

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## Talking to people:

- E Mailing, instant messaging, webcam and chat rooms
- It is easy to adopt a persona that isn't yours - taking greater risks, being flirtatious and being someone you are not
- Young people need to understand there are offline consequences to online behaviours
- Until you are confident that your child is responsible and mature enough to understand and manage the risks of communicating with people they do not know, you should restrict the sites they use and have access to

# Knowing what your child is doing online.

## Using a mobile phone:

- Most secondary age students (and some upper primary) own a mobile phone (mini computer)
- Mobile phones can:
  - Access the internet
  - Take and share photographs and videos
  - Chat with instant messaging, video and text
  - Share your location
  - Play games
  - Add and 'buy' apps



# How do I talk to my child about what they are doing?

We have a challenging job, we need to know what our children are doing online but also help them to do it in a safe way.

Here are 3 good ways to keep you up-to-date with your children and help teach them the basics of staying safe:

## 1. Let them teach you:

- Why do they like the site?
- What can they do about it?
- What's so fun about it?
- Who uses it at school?
- Who can you talk to?
- Who are their friends on it?

Ask an Expert

They tend to be about  
10 years old



# How do I talk to my child about what they are doing?

2. Reach an agreement:

Examples of areas you might want to discuss:

- Having regular screen breaks (at least 5 minutes every 45-60 minutes)
- Don't sharing pictures they wouldn't share with you
- Not giving out personal details to those they don't know or trust
- Come to you if they are concerned
- Limits on the amount of time children spend online, or playing computer games



# How do I talk to my child about what they are doing?

3. Watch Thinkuknow films (there are films suitable for Primary and Secondary age students):

<https://thinkuknow.co.uk>



# What risks my child might face?

- Cyberbullying:
  - Any bullying that takes place via any kind of technology
  - 24 hour accessibility – intrudes on the areas we feel most safe in
- What to do?
  - Offer reassurance and contact the school (if it involves school friends)
  - Keep evidence (screenshots)
  - Block the bullies
  - Report them (via website)



# What risks my child might face?

- Online reputation:
  - Previous 'secret' diaries are now in the public domain
  - Can leave a permanent online footprint
  - Employers and universities are known to do online searches
- Grooming:
  - Technology can be used by paedophiles to make contact with young people and win trust
  - Can use technology to pretend to be someone else
  - It is important that children understand that people like this exist and never do anything online they aren't comfortable with
  - Make yourself approachable so your child feels they can come to you (even if you find yourself angry or upset)

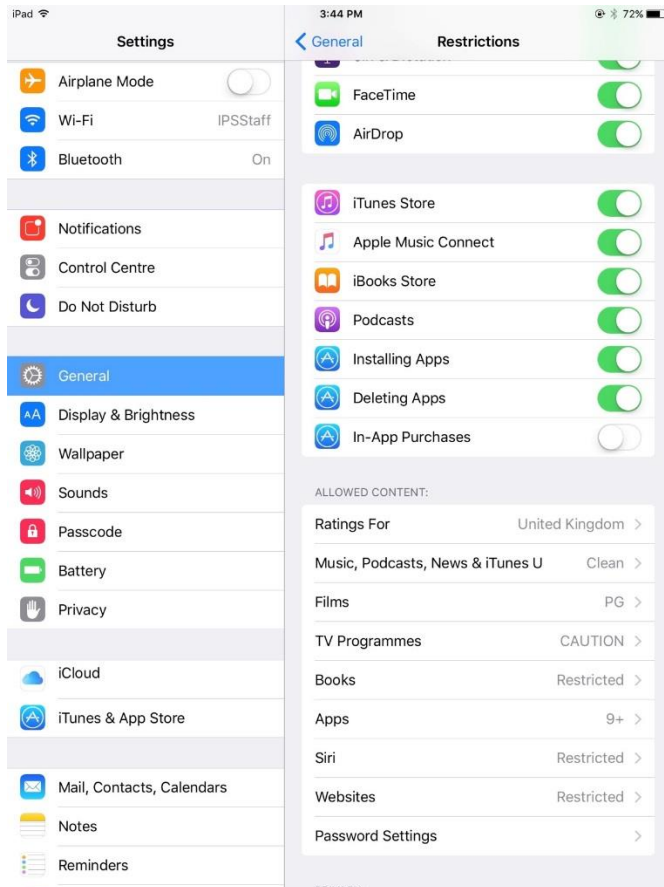
# What risks my child might face?

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- Losing control of pictures and videos:
  - Pictures and videos can be copied and shared at great speed
  - The reach can be much further than anticipated
  - Some young people have sent inappropriate pictures of themselves to boyfriends / girlfriends and found them shared further (sexting)
  - The risks include: bullying, distress, blackmail, reputational damage

# What tools are there to keep my child safe?

- Privacy settings and parental controls:



Where else can I get them?

- Internet Service Providers
- Devices that connect to the internet
- Software



# What tools are there to keep my child safe?

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- Being involved in your child's life
- Education on safe use
- Many online resources available such as:

[thinkuknow.co.uk](http://thinkuknow.co.uk)