

SUMMER SAFEGUARDING BULLETIN 2

Introduction

The Achieve and Learn Trust believes that nothing is more important than safeguarding the young people in our schools.

In this issue...

Sharing images online

Pick one to do as a family

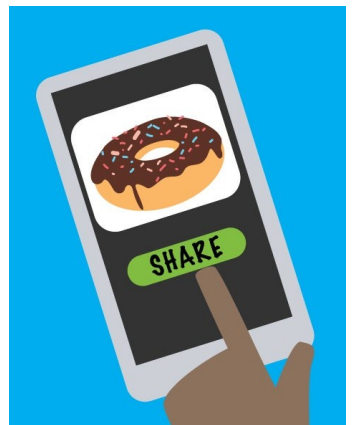
Summer can be a time when our young people spend more time online than they would do when they are at school. Rather than limiting their tech use to keep them safe, it is important to teach them how to use it responsibly and seek help when things do not go to plan!

This bulletin covers some of the ways that you can open the conversations about sharing images online and teach your children the skills to use it responsibly.

Sharing Images Online

Conversation starters for parents;

- What type of things do you like to share online?
- Is there anything you wouldn't share? Why?
- What advice would you give a friend if someone share an image of them online, without asking permission.
- With teens you could discuss an example from a programme or an article about a celebrity who shared an image and something went wrong. Ask– what advice would you offer the person?



Pick one to do as a family...



- As a family, look at the privacy settings for the apps, sites and games you use. Talk about how they can help to stay in control of what is shared online.
 - Create a list of who your child can talk to if they are worried about something they have seen or shared online. This may include you, other trusted adults, or trusted organisations like NSPCC's Childline .
- Visit the [CEOP Education](#) website and search for tips on how be safe when sharing pictures for different ages, by typing 'sharing' into the search box.

Fun family activity

Find a website or app to create a meme - your child will probably know how to do this - if not search 'create a meme' in safe search mode. Ask each family member to create a family meme. It might include a family motto or something you say to each other. Use this as an opportunity to talk about permission, if using a photo of others, being kind and thinking about sharing with others.

For further information about this topic and more on how to keep your child safer online, visit [Parents and carers | CEOP Education](#)



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SHARING PHOTOS ONLINE

School is often a time chock-full of milestones for your child, and you may well be eager to share their accomplishments with the world. In today's digital age, sharing images of such precious moments on social media is commonplace, and – while that's a lovely thing to do – it does come with some risks attached. Our guide can help parents and carers to consider the potential dangers and make informed choices about safely sharing photos of their children online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INVASIONS OF PRIVACY

Even with the right settings in place, absolutely nothing online is 100% private. Anyone who can view your photos could take screenshots and potentially share them elsewhere. Privacy settings are still important, though, so it's always wise to ensure your social media accounts have them set up; just bear in mind that you can't completely control what happens to anything once it's gone online.

REVEALING PERSONAL DETAILS

Small details in photos can often reveal personal information. Backgrounds can give clues to where you live, for example, while school logos on uniforms, sports kits, or bags could help someone identify which school your child attends. With interactive maps and reverse image searches commonplace online, information like this could easily be misused by an individual with malicious intentions.

MISUSE OF IMAGES

Once something's been shared online, it's almost impossible to get it deleted. Photos can show up in search engine results and be downloaded, manipulated, and shared without consent. There's the potential for someone's images to be used for advertising purposes (which in many cases, isn't illegal) or even more inappropriate reasons, such as cyber-bullying or serious forms of exploitation.

ONLINE GROOMING

Pictures that convey details about your child's interests, activities, or daily routines could arm an online predator with the kind of information they can deploy to gain a child's trust. They might use this knowledge to pretend to be the same age as the child or to have a shared hobby. Essentially, the more a predator knows about a young person, the easier it is for them to invent some 'common ground'.

PRESSURE TO PLEASE

When their parents or carers share notable moments and accomplishments with the world, some children may begin to feel an expectation to always meet certain standards, to achieve things, or to behave in ways that are "worth sharing". Knowing that other people (even friends and family) can see these posts on social media might also add to the pressure they're feeling internally.

IMPACT ON DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Every photo of a child posted online contributes to their digital footprint. Young people's lives have never been so closely and publicly documented as they are now, and this permanent online presence could affect a child's future opportunities or the choices they make as they grow up – in addition to influencing how they see themselves and, consequently, their emotional wellbeing.

Advice for Parents & Carers

REVIEW SETTINGS REGULARLY

Make sure your social media's secure in terms of who can view your content or see your location (only family and trusted friends, for example). Privacy settings aren't totally foolproof, but they do make it tougher for strangers to access your pics. Reviewing your settings regularly is also a good starting point for conversations with your child about managing their own social accounts when they're older.

CHECK YOUR PHOTOS

Photos of your child shouldn't provide any clues to where they live or go to school: even a house number, street name, or car number plate could be a giveaway. Cover up or blur out school logos, too. If you really want to share a particular pic, you could post a watermarked or low-res version, which can help to discourage misuse as these images are less appealing to download or reproduce.

CONSIDER OTHER CHILDREN

When taking a group photo, make sure you get parents' or carers' permission to share it on social media. There may be an important safeguarding reason for them not wanting their child's photo posted publicly online, or it might simply not tally with their personal beliefs or cultural background. A quick conversation in advance, just to make sure, is usually hugely appreciated.

THINK AHEAD

Try to consider the longer-term implications of what you post. Would you be happy with that photo being online in 10 years' time? Would your child still be OK with the image when they're older? Once your child is mature enough, you could ask for their consent before posting. It respects their privacy, fosters trust and understanding, and helps them to start thinking about their own online life.

Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with more than 20 years' experience working with children, families, and adults in education, local authority, and mental health settings, both in the UK and internationally. She has developed online safety training for local authorities and foster care agencies across Britain and is the online safety expert for Foster Wiki.



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PROBLEM?

Whisper it!

If you have a problem or concern in school or at home, you can report it to a member of staff anonymously.

When To Report...

You or a friend are being bullied

You are concerned for a student's welfare

A student, member of staff, or parent has behaved inappropriately

You need to talk to someone about a problem

Suggestion for changes or improvements in school

Report via SMS or visit:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/whisper/aca1/>

To: 07860 021 323

ACA1 [+ your message]