

# Parent e-safety Update



March 2015

As parents or relatives, teachers and other adults responsible to children's safety. We want our children and those we look after to be healthy and happy ... and to develop well both physically and mentally. Above all, it's also instinctive that we want children to be safe.

Children learn through exploration and natural curiosity, and it is part of our job as teachers, parents and carers to encourage that. However, as our children grow up, develop and discover new experiences, we have to take more and different steps to ensure their safety.

Until their understanding and instincts catch up with their curiosity, our children need to be protected from everyday dangers – whether crossing the road, in and around the home, trying new foods or talking to new people they meet.

***And sooner or later ... going online.***

## **The risks**

None of us, of whatever age, is immune from encountering problems online. Our children are certainly at a vulnerable stage in their lives ... naturally more trusting than adults and hopefully having been less exposed to the darker side of the internet. They are also not as well equipped to deal with such issues or their consequences. Some of these potential issues are as follows:

- Inappropriate contact: from people who may wish to abuse, exploit or bully them.
- Inappropriate conduct: because of their own and others' online behaviour, such as the personal information they make public, for example on social networking sites. Unfortunately, children can also become cyberbullies, especially when encouraged by others.
- Inappropriate content: being able to access or being sexually explicit, racist, violent, extremist or other harmful material, either through choice or in error.
- Commercialism: being the targets of aggressive advertising and marketing messages.
- Gaining access to your personal information stored on your computer, mobile device or games console, and passing it on to others ... or using your financial details such as payment card information.
- Enabling viruses and spyware by careless or misinformed use of their or your computer,

## **Our advice**

Everyone needs help sometimes ... and that's especially true of parents trying to stay switched-on to their children's online safety.

Aspire Academy is committed to safeguarding our students and have developed an e-safety section on our website, where parents can access up to date information on various e-safety issues.

***Just go to: [blackpoolaspireacademy.co.uk](http://blackpoolaspireacademy.co.uk) and follow the links to e-safety***

***Or pop in to school and discuss any issues with our team of Caseworkers***



## **CEOP**

For information and advice, and to report concerns directly to The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP), CEOP is a command of the National Crime Agency, and is dedicated to tackling the sexual abuse and exploitation of children and young people. CEOP is there to help young people (up to age 18) who have been forced or tricked into taking part in sexual activity with anyone online or in the real world.

## **Other Helpful Links**

Childnet International ~ BeatBullying ~ ParentPort ~ UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS)