Wodensborough Ormiston Academy

Knowsley City Learning Centres

Online Safety Newsletter | July 2023

Quora

Quora should only be accessed by users that are 13+. Quora is a question-and-answer site. You do need to set up an account to see and post replies.

Due to the nature of the site, users can communicate with strangers, either through the Q&A boards, spaces or via private messages. Private messaging can be turned off in settings and users can block other users.

Quora is a platform where users can post publicly. If your child is using this site, then please ensure your child understands that they should not share personal information. As content is user generated, talk to your child about how information they read online may not be factually correct. Your child may also come across content and topics that are not age appropriate.

You can find out more about the safety and security of Quora here: https://help.quora.com/hc/en-us/sections/115001205786-Safety-Security

Reporting to Social Media Sites

CEOP provide an overview of how to contact several different social media sites: https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Reporting-to-social-media-sites-

Grand Theft Auto (GTA)

Rockstar have announced they are working on Grand Theft Auto 6 (although no release date has been confirmed yet), so this is just a reminder that GTA is rated 18+ by PEGI, largely because of bad language, violence, glamourisation of crime and the depiction of drugs. **GTA is not suitable for those under this age.**

18 ™
www.pegi.info

Grand Theft Auto can be played across a range of devices, such as Xbox and PlayStation.

Grand Theft Auto Online is a multi-player version of the game and is included with Grand Theft Auto 5. Players can play this version alone, or they can invite players to a game, or be involved in games with random players. The settings can be changed so you only play with those on your approved friends list.

What do I need to be aware of?

- Mature content – the content is unsuitable for children
- In game chat (although this can be disabled and other players can be muted (depending on the device and version)).
- In game spending

It is important to talk to your child regularly about what they are playing and to discuss with them why some games are just not appropriate for them to play and the importance of checking age ratings.

What can they play instead?

You can use this database to search for games based on your child's age: https://www.taminggaming.com/cgi-bin/taminggaming.cgi

What is misogyny? Prevent and tackle hate online against girls.

Internet Matters have created this area on their website exploring misogyny, highlighting where children might see it online and discussing how we can tackle misogyny:

https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/online-hate/what-is-misogyny/

Online Challenges

Our children may not have developed the skills and ability to critically analyse all situations yet so it is important to talk to your child about hoaxes and challenges that may appear on the internet. Some challenges are fun and provide no risk, however there will be challenges that are risky/dangerous. Your child may see others complete certain challenges online without

being harmed and therefore may want to repeat them **and not consider the potential risks to themselves**. Make sure they know that they should talk to you (or another trusted adult) about what they see online, particularly if they plan to try a challenge or if something scares or upsets them.

We would always advise that if your child has not heard about an online challenge, then do not draw attention to it as this may lead to them searching for it out of curiosity, so just talk about challenges in a general sense. **Reassure your child that challenges that suggest that bad things will happen if they do not complete the tasks are not real.**

The following link will provide you with further information as well as content to help you talk to your child: https://www.internetmatters.org/connecting-safely-online/advice-for-parents/tackling-the-hard-stuff-on-social-media-to-support-young-people/online-challenges-are-they-harmless/

TikTok have also produced this resource to help you talk to your child about challenges and the potential risks: https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en-sg/online-challenges/

Sextortion

Sextortion is a form of blackmail; it occurs when somebody threatens to publish a sexual image/video of them unless they do what the blackmailer says (usually send money). The blackmailer may have originally tricked the person into sharing a sexual image or the image may have been obtained without the victim's knowledge or consent. Unfortunately, teenagers have been the victims of sextortion, so it is important to chat to your child about this topic. We understand that it can be difficult to approach such conversations but 'Thorn for Parents' have created conversation starters as well as a script to help you to start the conversation: https://parents.thorn.org/guides/sextortion/

Where to get help
The Metropolitan police detail more information about what sextortion is, what to do if you are targeted and how to report it: https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/sexual-offences/sextortion/

Vinted scams

Have you used Vinted to buy and sell used clothes? Please be aware of potential scams. Vinted have published an article highlighting how scammers might target Vinted users and how you can protect yourself. You can read the full article here:

https://www.vinted.co.uk/help/628-recognise-spoof-and-phishing-messages

Take It Down

Take It Down is a service for people who have images or videos of themselves nude, partially nude, or in sexually explicit situations taken when **they were under the age of 18** that they believe **have been** or **will be** shared online.

This service will help you to have the image **taken down** or **stop it from being shared** on participating platforms. You can remain anonymous. https://takeitdown.ncmec.org/

What is Virtual Reality

Did you know that many VR headsets have a minimum age rating of 13?

Childnet have produced this article detailing what virtual reality is and the considerations that you should consider before using: https://www.childnet.com/blog/virtual-reality-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers/