

## **REPORT IT, BLOCK IT, STOP IT**

### **CYBER BULLYING AND E SAFETY ADVICE FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS**

E safety is the ability to protect and educate students in their use of technology. Research shows that currently 3% of 5 -7 year olds have a smartphone and 35% age 12 - 15yrs.

Social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter, as well as BB and texts, are an important part of the social lives of young people today. Unfortunately, they can also be used negatively e.g. to bully others.

Churchill Community College would like to offer the following guidelines to students and parents to make sure the use of these sites is enjoyable and safe. The majority of use takes place outside of school and so must be managed by parents effectively to avoid problems occurring.

### **IF BULLYING OR OTHER PROBLEMS OCCUR ON LINE, VIA TEXTS, VIA BB:**

#### **AS A PARENT YOU SHOULD:**

- Report the bullying to Facebook / Twitter and to the police.
- Keep evidence e.g. the text message or print out from facebook.
- Block or delete the person who has bullied.
- Change the phone number.
- Check the security settings and privacy settings on your child's account. These need to be updated regularly.
- Monitor your child's use of the internet, social networking and gaming sites e.g. review their friends list - do they know who all these people are? You would warn them against talking to strangers on the street so exactly the same rules apply on line.
- Make sure that your child is careful about who they give their BB pin to. In being part of a group your child might receive unwanted messages, images or videos
- Your child must tell a parent or teacher immediately if they receive an inappropriate image or video (e.g. of a fight taking place) online or through BB. If they just store it on their phone or computer, or even open it and delete it, they could find themselves in trouble with the police at a later date, even if they did not ask for that image to be sent to them.
- Make sure that your child understands that information put online stays there forever. Deleting a message on your computer does not mean that it cannot be recovered by someone else at another time
- Ensure that children under 13 do not have Facebook accounts

Please do not involve yourself in the dispute by sending a message yourself as you could then find yourself in trouble as well. Instead report it to Facebook/ Twitter and the police.

Useful information on e safety can be found on:

- CEOP's youtube channel - <http://www.youtube.com/user/ceop?feature=chclk>.
- Vodafone's digital parenting site <http://www.vodafone.com/content/index/parents.html>  
- this is full of great resources like advice on parental controls, checking privacy settings with your children, check lists for things to be aware of for different age groups of children and a great digital magazine on all the issues in this area.
- The UK Safer internet centre also has a parent's guide to technology - <http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/a-parents-guide>
- CEOP - [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)
- BBC Stay Safe site
- Sophos

#### **AS A COLLEGE WE WILL:**

- Record all bullying incidents, including cyber bullying
- Recommend that you de-activate social media accounts
- Investigate any issues that are brought to our attention. As part of this we may ask students and parents to give evidence of the comments made e.g. print out of Facebook comments or we might ask to read a text. Please do not delete these messages.
- Once an investigation is complete, students proved to be involved in bullying will be sanctioned in line with our behaviour policy e.g. internally excluded or receive an internet ban on the College network.
- Involve the police if necessary

#### **STUDENTS SHOULD:**

- Use social media responsibly e.g. do not make rude, abusive or threatening comments to anyone.
- Only talk to people they know and only accept people they know as friends. They should not give out personal information e.g. address, phone number, e mail address. The same applies to people they may play games against online.
- NEVER go and meet anyone they have met online, Lauren who is 15 could turn out to be Rob who is 45.
- Be careful about who they give your BB pin to. In being part of a group your child might receive unwanted messages, images or videos
- NEVER share passwords
- NEVER download information illegally e.g. music
- Be aware that comments made online or pictures posted are there forever. Deleting a message or image on your computer does not mean that it cannot be recovered by someone else at another time.

- Be aware that friends of friends may be able to see comments, photo's etc because of their privacy settings.
- Check the security settings and privacy settings on their account. These need to be updated regularly.
- **MUST** tell a parent or a member of staff if they are bullied online, via BB or text.
- **MUST** tell a parent or another adult immediately if they receive an inappropriate image or video (e.g. of a fight taking place) online or through BB. If they just store it on their phone or computer, or even open it and delete it, they could find themselves in trouble with the police at a later date, even if they did not ask for that image to be sent to you e.g. you receive through BB.
- Report any bullying to Facebook / Twitter but keep the evidence.
- Block or delete the person who has bullied.

