# Gaming Parent Workshop

## Helping to keep your children safe online

# Aims of the session

- Reflect on the potential risks of internet use for children.

- Discuss the importance of communication with children about the time they are spending online.

- Understand how to set up parental controls on home and mobile devices.

- Know what to do if your child encounters problems online.

- Q&A

# Children Online
## Potential Risks

- Cyber bullying

- Grooming

- Inappropriate websites

- Losing control over pictures and video / Giving out too much information online

- Viruses, hacking and security

# Risks of Gaming

- Many online games have communication features which allow their users to interact anonymously e.g. Minecraft (all devices) and World of Warcraft (PC)

- Cyberbullies may harass fellow gamers and online scam artists may promise virtual goods in an effort to get credit card information e.g. World of Warcraft

- Some game consoles allow internet access as well, so it is important to be aware of their communication features.

# Tips

- Keep the computer in a high-traffic area of your home.
- Establish limits for which online sites children may visit and for how long.
- Remember that Internet technology can be mobile, so make sure to monitor mobile phones, gaming devices, and laptops.
- Surf the Internet with your children and let them show you what they like to do online.
- Know who is connecting with your children online and set rules for social networking, instant messaging, e-mailing, online gaming, and using webcams.
- Check the browser search history on a regular basis.

# Communication

- Be a part of their online life; involve the whole family and show an interest. Find out what sites they visit and what they love about them.

- No filter or parental controls tool is 100% effective, and many of the risks that young people face online are because of their own and other's behaviour.

- Create a family agreement for internet use, such as on http://www.childnet.com/resources/know-it-all-for-parents/kiafp-cd

# Discussion Starters

- What are your favourite things to do online?
- What is personal information? Why should you keep it private?
- What could you do to be safer online?
- What would you do if anyone online asked to meet you face-to-face?
- Besides me, who do you feel that you can talk to if you are in a scary or uncomfortable situation?
- Do you use IM or chat rooms to talk to your friends and others?
- How many people do you have on your buddy/contact list(s) and who are they?
- Have you ever chatted with someone you did not know in real life? What kinds of things did you talk about?
- Do you know how to block others in chat rooms and IM? Can you show me how to do this?

**Go to [http://www.netsmartz.org/InternetSafety](http://www.netsmartz.org/InternetSafety) for further examples.**
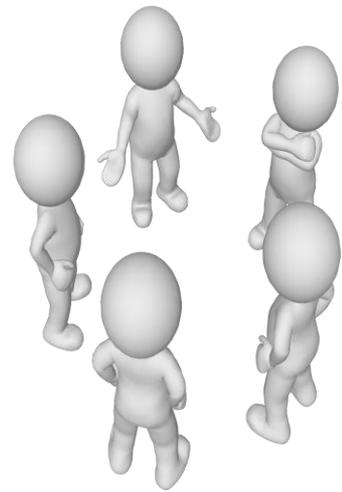
# Parental Controls
## Internet Providers

- The 5 big internet providers in the UK – **BT, Sky, TalkTalk, Plusnet** and **Virgin Media** - provide their customers with free parental controls.

- These providers offer filter levels e.g. BT provides 'light', 'moderate' or 'strict' filter levels.

- Parents can :
  - customise their parental controls.
  - allow and block specific sites.
  - set filter times.
  - set limits for time online.

# Fortnite

- What features and risks are there on Fortnite?

- Fortnite: Battle Royale has several features that can be fun, but there are also risks. These include:

- Players can add friends in the mobile game if they have an account with Epic, the game's developer. Friends can be added by username in the game's main menu.

- There is a chat feature in the game that allows users to contact each other using voice or text. You can disable voice chat in the game by selecting the 3 lines in the top right of the screen, select the settings icon, choose the 'Audio' tab at the top of the screen and go to the 'Voice Chat' option, where you can select 'Off'.

- There is cartoon violence in the game. You can use a variety of weapons to kill other players, such as guns and axes.

- There are in-app purchases, which can become expensive.

- Players can be reported to the Player Support team if you are concerned about activity or behaviour.

# Parental Controls
## Gaming Devices

- Parental controls can also be set up on games consoles, such as Playstation, Xbox and Nintendo Wii.

- Restrict games based on age rating.

- Restrict time spent e.g. On the Xbox 360 activate the "Family Timer" to limit the total amount.

- Control your child's friend requests so you know who they're playing with online.

- Restrict online user-to-user communication and the exchange of user-generated content.

Games come in all sorts of shapes and sizes

Short and simple like Poppit to MASSIVE MULTIPLAYER ones like
Runescape and WOW (World of Warcraft).

They're all very different but, whatever the game and whatever
the device – laptop, phone, games console, the rules are the
same.

Create a family email address for signing up for online games.

Learn about the language of gaming by downloading 'Online Lingo'

# PEGI Ratings

Pan European Game Information. It is a self-regulation and is composed by five age categories and eight content descriptors that advise the suitability and content of a game for a certain age range based on the games content. The age rating is not intended to indicate the difficulty of the game or the skill required to play it.

## TOP TIPS:

## GAMES

• Study the rating of an online game carefully, often they will let you know if it suitable for someone your age.

• Read the terms and conditions of the sites that you use and check if there are special safety features for kids.

• Set-up your user profile to include appropriate language and game content for someone your age.

• Make sure your parents or carers know your gamertag and how to access your online account so they can help you if something goes wrong.

• Set time limits for yourself – you could use a mobile phone to set an alarm to keep to your limit.

## Screenshots

Ever been playing an online game when suddenly someone starts saying bad things? Use the 'print screen' button on your keyboard to take a screen shot of the foul language and report it to the website. Use your shot as evidence.

## Netiquette Keep it positive!

Online games sites and forums are not the place to hassle other people. 'Flaming' or 'trolling' others is irresponsible and wastes people's time. Keep your conversations and posts positive.

## Undercover!

What does your gamertag or username reveal about your true identity? Make sure it doesn't give away any personal information such as your name or location. Go undercover and use a nickname instead!

## Games consoles

Your Xbox 360, PS3, or Wii could be subject to online invaders! Make sure your parent or carer checks security settings on your console before you go online.

## Wireless access

Before you jump on just any wireless connection with your PSP or DS, make sure you know the network is safe and you've checked with an adult. The same goes for games on your mobile. When in doubt, check

# What to do if your child sees inappropriate material online

- Don't overreact if your child tells you about something they have seen. You might feel shocked and angry but by dealing with it calmly your child will know they can turn to you again.

- Keep records of abusive messaging.

- Report abusive or inappropriate behaviour to the website and if serious, to the police. https://www.ceop.police.uk/

- If you come across illegal content, such as images of child abuse, you can report this to the Internet Watch Foundation at www.iwf.org.uk.

# Useful Websites

- www.kidsmart.org.uk/beingsmart
- www.childnet.com/resources/parental-controls
- http://www.netsmartz.org/Parents

For more information visit our E-Safety Resource Centre at:

https://www.lgfl.net/online-safety/

# Any Questions?