Cyber Issues

"Educating - Protecting - Empowering"

The following list outlines significant issues children and young people face when online. It is important for teachers, parents and carers to remain aware of these issues and the potential harm that can result.

**Cyber (online) bullying** occurs when technology is used to deliberately and repeatedly to engage in hostile behaviour to harm someone. Groups and individuals can be both the perpetrators and targets of bullying.

**Digital Footprint/Identity** the word used to describe the trail, traces or "footprints" that people leave online.

**Fraud** wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain.

**Geo-location software** this type of software is used to identify someone’s IP (Internet Protocol) address, which can reveal which country they are in – right down to city and post code, organisation and specific location. It is used by law enforcement to prevent online fraud, by marketers to target advertisements, and by many mobile applications such as GPS locators.

**Hacker** someone who breaks into computer and network systems and performs destructive or illegal acts. ‘Hackers’ can also be used to quiz Internet security systems, decode and solve other technology problems.

**Identity theft** a crime in which an imposter obtains key pieces of personal information, such as Social Security or driver’s license numbers, in order to impersonate someone else.

**Malware** malicious software, such as a virus, which is specifically designed to disrupt or damage a computer system.

**Phishing** when emails are sent from fake email addresses in order to deceive individuals to reveal personal information, such as passwords and credit card numbers.

**Plagiarise** taking the work or an idea of someone else and passing it off as one’s own.

**Sexting** the sending of sexually explicit photos, images, text messages, or e-mails by using a mobile device or via the internet.

**Social Networking Sites (SNS)** used to describe any Web site that enables users to create public profiles within that Web site and form relationships with other users of the same Web site who access their profile (For example Facebook, Instagram, Google+).

**Spam** the sending of unsolicited commercial electronic messages such as via emails, instant messages, SMS, (a form of spam is ‘junk email’).

**Trojan** a hacking program or malware which gains access to a computer’s operating system while appearing to perform a desirable function (named after a Greek mythological war weapon).

**Trolling** Internet slang used to describe a person who deliberately antagonises people online, with the aim of starting arguments or upsetting them – most often done anonymously.

*PLEASE NOTE – Cyber Issues are not limited to this list*