Cyber Information

Click on the blue underlined text and/or the images to take you to linked websites. Most pages are interactive.
A focus to begin........

How do you and your family use technology?

‘Do I need to worry about this cyber safety stuff? My children don’t even use an iPad or computer games.’

It is important you understand how you and your family use online spaces.
Behaviours

What do your children see when you are using technology?

Does your internet use impact on the way you communicate with others?
Many devices, many possibilities..

- Know the devices you and your family are using.
- Each app has a different privacy set up. Some are public unless you change it yourself. It does take time to check these settings.
- Many search engines have parental controls.
- iTunes allows restrictions for parental controls

Recognise any of these? Click on this to learn more about the apps.
Social networking describes a variety of services like Facebook, YouTube, World of Warcraft, Moshi Monsters and Twitter. All of these services enable direct interaction between individuals. Users can post information about themselves, display photos, tell people what they’ve been up to, chat and play games. Social networking forms a part of the social identity of many teens.

While social networking offers many benefits, there are risks. Sometimes children can forget who they are communicating with online and who might see the information they post. It can be easier for children and teens to say and do things online that they might not do offline. It can also be easier to talk to strangers online than it is offline, and they may confide too much in people they don’t know well.

It is important that children understand the risks associated with disclosing information about themselves online and know how to manage both their privacy and online ‘friends’.

**Is my child old enough to use social media?**

Is my child old enough for social networking sites like Facebook, Instagram, Youtube, Tumblr, Twitter, Kik etc? Most high profile social networking sites ask users to set up a profile with photos and information about themselves. 13 is the minimum user age required by Facebook, Instagram, Youtube, Tumblr and Twitter. Kik recommends that users are 17 years or older. If your child is 13+ you should still consider the following before agreeing to unsupervised access:
Online gaming

Video games are popular with children of all ages, especially boys. Some games allow interactivity with other players online. Games can be educational or may be purely for fun.

Games vary in terms of their content with some having high levels of violent or sexual content. Checking age guidelines and ratings can help to guide your child's online game use.

Some online games encourage team work and interaction with others online. This can include adults. Teens will be best protected if they keep their personal information to themselves and don't engage in personal conversations in online games.

If children are using sites that enable direct interaction with others it is a good idea for adults to supervise their interactions and to establish rules about the information they are allowed to provide to others. Setting rules about what to do if they encounter disturbing content or contact from others is also useful.
Online gambling

In a world with limitless online possibilities for entertainment, kids and young people can stumble across and engage in online gambling through online games.

Applications on social media sites often require users to purchase credits to play games, access special features and give virtual gifts. It is important that children understand the differences between simple gaming, and gambling online.

The internet offers a myriad of online gambling sites ranging from betting on sport and racing to well known casino games. Gambling in games is very risky for kids and teens, and can interfere with their schooling and social life.

Tips

› Help your children understand the risks of excessive gaming and gambling in online games
› Keep a look out for changes in a child’s activity, school or social behaviours and talk to your child if you have any concerns
› Avoid gambling activities as a family and do not gamble in front of your children
› Keep the computer in a living room and limit private internet activity.
Digital footprint

• It is important to learn that everything you do online is creating a digital footprint that is permanent.

Click on each image above, to take you to these two great websites.
Click on this slide for more information...
This is our future and our children's future. It is worth investing time in educating ourselves.

eSafety issues

There are some real risks that you need to be aware of when you're online. Safeguard yourself and your friends by understanding the issues and knowing how to respond.

Games, apps and social networking

Information on how to protect yourself and your personal information when using social
Tagged

When a group of high-school friends post a rumour about a rival it sparks a chain reaction that leaves no one untouched. Cyberbullying, sexting, filmed fights and police action ensue—will these friends avoid being tagged forever? Run time: 18:25
Click on each image to take you to these amazing websites...
Key messages

• take time to stay as up to date as possible
• talk to other parents and carers... support each other
• talk as a family about the apps, games and websites you are using
• talk as a family about online safety and expectations
• how your children see you behaving will heavily influence their behaviours
• stay involved in your child’s use of new technology
• children should tell an adult if they see or are involved in something that makes them feel uncomfortable
• if you are unsure, google it
• seek help
If you are unsure what to do, seek help. St Thomas More will be able to offer support and guidance for families if needed. Just ask.

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