

# ***Social Networking/Social Media Awareness raising session for School Staff***



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**CEOP Ambassador**



**“For those agencies whose job it is to protect children and vulnerable people, the harsh reality is that if a sufficiently devious person is determined to seek out opportunities to work their evil, no one can guarantee that they will be stopped. Our task is to make it as difficult as possible for them to succeed...”**

*Bichard Report, 2004, p 12, para 79*



# Aims and Objectives

- **To increase your understanding of social networking**
- **To increase your understanding of the outcomes and consequences of social networking**
- **To consider the challenges associated with teaching staff who work with children about these issues**
- **Understand the law surrounding Social Networking issues**



# What are children doing on the Web?

- Blogging
- Sharing music
- Social networking
- Gaming
- Messaging
- Commenting on others' sites
- Personalising their own pages
- Sexting

The image shows a screenshot of a Blogger website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the Blogger logo and the text "Blogger". Below this, it says "BLOGS UPDATED AT 10:54 AM" and "Random thoughts on life". A section titled "What's a blog?" is visible. To the right, there's a "Comments" section with two comments. Below the main content, there's a collage of various social networking and entertainment logos, including Babelk, Myspace.com, Faceparty, miaplaza, Livejo, Sconex, Tribe, myGamma, myWorld, myNetspot.org, Music For, friendster, and STUDY Breaker. The collage is titled "Social Networking".



# Behavioural Categories that could effect you!!

- Spreading of gossip or untrue information by blog, email, mobile phone or social networking sites
- Posting or forwarding of private information, message and pictures online or by mobile phone
- Threats and abuse made by email, mobile phone or comments left on social networking sites
- Impersonation of the victim and creation of a fake profile page which is humiliating and/or contains false information



# Social Networking Tips

- Facebook - Check your "View As" button.
- Security settings need to be set to "Friends only", that includes - comments, posts and photos.
- These "**Friends**" need to be people you know and trust in the real world
- **Content** - Only post content and photos you wouldn't mind showing your family!
- Learn how to report an issue directly to UK Safer Internet Centre





Change Cover



Andrew Coutts

Update Info

Activity Log 1

Timeline

About

Friends 370

Photos 85

More

Status Photo Place Life Event

What's on your mind?



Andrew Coutts

3 hours ago via Twitter

Raspberry Pi? No thanks -> Can a \$50 mini PC replace your

Activity Recent



Andrew likes Peter Green - Portrait of... on BoldBrush Painting Contest.

Like - Comment

1



Andrew likes Dogs are family.

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Now

2013

2012

2011

2010

2009

# Mobile Technology



**DON'T GIVE OUT YOUR PERSONAL MOBILE NUMBER – EVER!!!**

# Functions

Chat

Location

Text

Online

Images

# What are the risks?

- Cyberbullying
- Damage to reputation (yours and school)
- Breach of School Social Network Policy or Acceptable Users Policy (AUP) – Disciplinary Investigation
- Criminal Offence



# THINK

- No matter what purpose you are utilising social media for you need to be mindful of the fact that there are legal issues which need to be considered.
- **These may well apply to personal use out of the work place as well as professional use in the work place of social media sites:**
  - **Libel**
  - **Copyright**
  - **Data Protection**
  - **Obscene material**

**Be aware of the Dignity at Work Policy, this applies to social media.**

# Cyber bullying

- **Online bullying, malicious comments and untrue statements**
- Cyber-bullying is an increasing issue and it is not tolerated across the council. Employees need to be mindful that inappropriate activity on social media could be considered as cyber bullying and this may result in disciplinary action.

# Public Interest Disclosure (Whistle blowing)

- If you use a social media channel to report concerns about malpractice or wrongdoing happening in a workplace you may not be protected under the terms of the Public Interest Disclosure Act.

## **Any disclosure which concerns;**

- criminal offences
- failure to comply with a legal obligation
- miscarriages of justice
- threats to an individual's health and safety
- damage to the environment
- a deliberate attempt to cover up any of the above

**These issues should be reported in accordance with the Council's Whistle blowing Procedure.**

**NOT ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

# Comments



# Pictures



# Videos

- **Staff suspended at troubled Bollin Primary School in Trafford over video showing teachers celebrating.**
- <http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/bollin-primary-school-in-trafford--12676840#ICID=FB-MEN-main>

# School/College - Policy/Guidelines?

**All members of staff should be made aware that their online conduct both in and out of school could have an impact on their role and reputation;**

- Civil, legal or disciplinary action could be taken should they be found to have brought the profession or institution into disrepute, or if something is felt to have undermined confidence in their professional abilities.

**Encourage staff to consider their “digital footprint”;**

- Would they be happy with a line manager, pupil or parent/carer to see it
- Understand and use the social networking privacy settings and tools but recognise they can be bypassed.
- Have a communicated policy regarding online communication
- Emphasise the importance of a professional relationship with pupils/parents

**Schools should have clear guidance, procedures and training for all staff which outline professional expectations;**

- AUP, e-safety Policy, Code of Conduct, Staff Inductions and a Staff Handbook

# Sexting Teacher 2014

[www.channel4.com/programmes/sexting-teacher](http://www.channel4.com/programmes/sexting-teacher)

Sexting Teacher carefully tells the stories of three teacher-pupil relationships in the age of social media and mobile phones. All three cases led to a prison sentence and shame for the teacher and had a tumultuous effect on the lives of those involved. The stories highlight how technology is enabling the worrying trend of relationships between teachers and their underage pupils and gives a new level of insight into the dangers for the girls involved.

# Bury Case Studies-last 3 years

- Teacher befriending child U16 at their school, engaging in inappropriate sexual banter on SN sites, texts and face to face. Continued once child had left school at 16 – Investigated by police, subsequently resigned before disciplinary hearing, referred to DBS. Referred to NCTL, Banned.
- Teacher making inappropriate sexual comments to child U16, sending inappropriate e-mails – investigated by police, subsequently resigned before disciplinary hearing, referred to DBS. Will appear on a reference.
- Teacher befriending child U16 at their school on SN site, making inappropriate comments, engaged in risky behaviour – Investigated by Police, subsequently disciplined. Then 2 years later did same thing, dismissed, referred to NCTL, banned for life. Referred to DBS.
- Teacher befriending child U16 at their school, then on teacher leaving school, engaged in sexual activity after engaging on SN sites – investigated by police, subsequently jailed for 36 months and banned from working with children. Referred to DBS, on sex offender register.
- Teacher caught accessing child abuse sites on internet in a CEOP operation. Sentenced to 6 months imprisonment, susp 2 years.
- School governor and councillor downloading indecent images of children, referred to DBS and on a SOPA. Sentenced to community service.
- SSA pretending to be a child on SN, exchanged indecent images with a child from school, 10 months imprisonment.

# The Law

## Grooming

An adult (18+) who gets in contact with a young person (U16) with the purpose of abusing them.

S.15 Sexual offences act 2003

[www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/42/section/15](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/42/section/15)

## Position of Trust

A person who is over 18 and in a position of trust with a child U18, then engages in sexual activity with such a child.

S.16–S.19 Sexual Offences Act 2003.

[www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/42/section/16](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/42/section/16)



# The Law

## PROTECTION FROM HARRASSMENT ACT 1977 PROHIBITION OF HARASSMENT.

- (1) A PERSON MUST NOT PURSUE A COURSE OF CONDUCT—**
  - (a) Which amounts to harassment of another, and**
  - (b) Which he knows or ought to know amounts to harassment of the other.**
  
- (2) For the purpose of this section, the person whose course of conduct is in question ought to know that it amounts to harassment of another if a reasonable person in possession of the same information would think the course of conduct amounted to harassment of the other.**

**Section 2A of the 1997 Act prohibits a person from pursuing a course of conduct that amounts to stalking. Although stalking is not specifically defined in the 2A offence, stalking is where an individual is fixated and/or obsessed with another. This can be exhibited by pattern of persistent and repeated contact with, or attempts to contact, a particular victim. Section 2A (3) lists examples of behaviours associated with stalking.**

# Child Sexual Exploitation

## “Consent” is all about:

- Whether or not a child understands how consent is given, withdrawn & what situations can compromise their ability to consent freely to sexual activity:
- Being drunk, under the influence of drugs, threatened, groomed, **power imbalance**

## Inappropriate relationships

Usually involving one perpetrator who has inappropriate power or control over a young person (physical, emotional or financial). May be a significant age gap. The young person may believe they are in a loving relationship.

*This is why a 16 or 17 year old can be sexually exploited even though they are old enough to consent to sexual activity*

**Don't forget “When you let your guard down, responsibility becomes diminished, accountability does not”**



# Outcomes of an investigation

- **Substantiated** – There is sufficient evidence to prove the allegation. (Relevant Conduct has occurred).
- **Unsubstantiated** – This is not the same as a false allegation, it simply means that there is insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation. The term does not imply guilt or innocence.
- **False** – There is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation
- **Malicious** – There is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation and there has been a deliberate act to deceive.
- **\*Unfounded\*** – There is no evidence or proper basis which supports the allegation being made, or there is evidence to prove that the allegation is untrue. It may also indicate the person making the allegation misinterpreted the incident or was mistaken about what they saw. Alternatively they may not have been aware of all the circumstances.



(Keeping Children Safe in Education – DfE – Sept 2016)

# Relevant Conduct

- Endangers a child or is likely to endanger a child
- If repeated against or in relation to a child, would endanger a child or would be likely to endanger them
- Involves sexual material relating to children (including possession of such material)
- Involves sexually explicit images depicting violence against a person (including possession of such images), if it appears to DBS that the conduct is inappropriate
- Is of a sexual nature involving a child, if it appears to DBS that the conduct is inappropriate.

## **A person's conduct endangers a child if they:**

- a. Harm a child,
- b. Cause a child to be harmed,
- c. Put a child at risk of harm,
- d. Attempt to harm a child, or
- e. Incite another to harm a child.



# References for all school staff

- For **school staff** (including volunteers), if an allegation was proven to be unsubstantiated, \*unfounded or malicious it should not be included in an employer reference
- A history of repeated concerns or allegations which have all been found to be unsubstantiated, malicious etc. should also not be included in any reference
- Concerns about conduct can be included and should be passed on to new employer



# Collecting Evidence

- Important for teachers/schools to take action against perpetrators
- Collect evidence;
  - Record date and time of messages
  - Copy Content / screenshots
  - Sender ID, number, address
- Illegal content should be reported to police, IWF, service provider etc.



# Support and Report



**Professionals  
Online Safety  
Helpline**



Abusive comments posted  
about you online?  
Not sure what to do?

**Contact the Professionals  
Online Safety Helpline...**

Are you a professional working with Children and Young People?

Do you need help with an internet safety concern?

Would you know what to do if a child was being bullied online?

Who would you turn to if there was an abusive fake Facebook  
profile set up about you?

How would you support a child who  
had their "sexts" shared?



**UK Safer  
Internet  
Centre**  
[www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

**helpline@saferinternet.org.uk**

**Tel: 0844 3814771**

[www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

# Contact

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