



# E-Safety

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15th April 2016

Greengate Lane  
Academy

## E-Safety News



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Welcome to the second edition of the Greengate Lane Academy E-Safety newsletter.

The newsletter will be produced each term and will be available online at: [www.greengatelane.sheffield.sch.uk](http://www.greengatelane.sheffield.sch.uk)

The aim of this newsletter is to give parents, carers and pupils up to date news and information about how to stay safe online both in school and at home. On the following pages you are given a website which has some excellent online safety information for parents, carers and children. There is also some information on the more popular apps that children access.

In the summer we are hoping to set up an informal session in school where parents and carers can learn more about e-safety.

If there are any articles you would like to see in the newsletter or if you would like further information on any of the articles in this newsletter please see **Mrs McConnell**.

### Remember the SMART rules to stay safe:

**S:** Be Safe

**M:** Don't Meeet Up

**A:** Accepting Emails can be Dangerous

**R:** Reliable?

**T:** Tell Someone!

## E-Safety Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed and returned the E-Safety Survey.

We are pleased that we received 77 (or 43%) of the surveys back.

You can still complete and return the E-Safety survey to the office.

## ThinkUKnow

This is a very easy to use website with a great deal of information for children, parents and carers.

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents)

The website is easy to navigate and has information and resources which are appropriate to particular ages groups: 5-7, 8-10, 11-13, 14+ with an additional area for parents and carers to visit.

The site gives children (and parents/carers) information on ways to stay safe online; how to report anything which makes them feel uncomfortable and also an fun area where they can learn how to be safe online.



## ID Theft

Just like adults, children may be at risk of having their online identity stolen and misused. It can be difficult to maintain a child's privacy as they may not understand what information is safe to share online, or what default privacy settings are on the sites and devices they're using. In the online world children could unwittingly reveal enough personal details like their address and telephone number to enable their identity to be stolen. So it's really important for children to know how to keep their private information private.

If a child's identity is stolen it may not be noticed for many years and could in some cases lead to a child being the victim of blackmail, grooming or bullying.

## Understanding Sexting

**Sexting** is when young people send images and messages of a sexual nature to their school friends, partners or worst still, even strangers they meet online. There are many reasons why a young person might get involved in sexting. Sometimes they might be put under pressure to either take pictures of themselves or pass on those taken by others. As children have no control over how and where images and messages might be shared online by other people, sexting can leave them vulnerable to bullying, humiliation and embarrassment, or even to blackmail. When children engage in sexting they're creating an indecent image of a person under the age of 18 which, even if they take it themselves, is against the law.

Distributing an indecent image of a child – e.g. sending it via text – is also illegal. It's very unlikely that a child would be prosecuted for a first offence, but the police might want to investigate



Instagram

## Cyberbullying

**Cyberbullying** is when someone bullies others over the internet or on a mobile phone by sending abusive emails or texts directly or by posting nasty comments or humiliating images for others to see. Like any form of bullying, cyberbullying can be horrible for the children involved and hard for them to talk about.

### How is cyberbullying different from other bullying?

One of the biggest differences between cyberbullying and face-to-face bullying is that it can be hard to get away from. Young people could be bullied anywhere, anytime – even when they're at home.

Cyberbullying can have a large audience too. Posts on social networks, emails or group chats can be seen by lots of people very quickly. Cyberbullies can also remain anonymous, by using fake profiles on social networking sites or blocking their phone numbers. This can make it harder to identify the bullies, but texts and other messages can be saved as proof of the bullying.

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## Trolling

**Trolling** is a phenomenon that has swept across websites in recent years. Online forums, Facebook pages and newspaper comment forms are bombarded with insults, provocations or threats.

Trolling is recognised as deliberately inflicting hatred, bigotry, racism, misogyny, or just simple bickering between others. People who partake in 'trolling' are referred to as 'trolls'. They use any environment where they are allowed to make public comments, such as blog sites, social networks (like Facebook® and Twitter®), news sites, discussion forums, and game chat.

### Is trolling an offence?

Persons engaging in Internet trolling are immediately committing an offence under the Malicious Communications Act.

- Any person who sends a letter, electronic communication or article of any description to a person that conveys a message that is indecent or highly offensive, a threat or false information. If the reason for that communication was to cause distress or anxiety to the recipient or to any other person, then the sender is guilty of an offence.
  - This includes mobile phones and the Internet (any form of electronic communication).
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The ethos of Greengate Lane Academy is underpinned by the belief that each child has the right to work, play and learn in a friendly, safe and supportive environment. Equally we believe that all members of staff have the right to deliver their professional responsibilities in a similar environment.

The staff and governors at Greengate Lane Academy take steps to ensure that all children in school are safe when using the internet.

We would like parents and carers to support the school by ensuring that their children are also safe when using the internet at home.

If you have any questions about E-safety please contact Mrs McConnell in the school office.

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## Grooming

There's a chance that your child may meet people online who aren't who they say they are. **Grooming** is a word used to describe people befriending children in order to take advantage of them for sexual purposes. Many parents worry about online grooming so it's important to talk to your children about how to stay safe. It's easy to pretend to be someone else on the internet, so children can sometimes end up having conversations with people whose real identities they may not know.

Groomers may go to a social network used by young people and pretend to be one of them. They might attempt to gain trust by using fake profile pictures, pretending to have similar interests, offering gifts and saying nice things to the child.

Once they have the child's trust the groomer often steers the conversation towards their sexual experiences, even asking them to send sexual photographs or videos of themselves. Some may try to set up a meeting, or even blackmail children by threatening to share the pictures or videos with the child's family and friends.

Online groomers are not always strangers. In many situations they may already have met them through their family or social activities, and use the internet to build rapport with them. Sometimes children don't realise they've been groomed, and think that the person is their boyfriend or girlfriend

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