

Richmond and Wandsworth Prevent Education Covid-19 – Safeguarding at home

Dear colleagues

Just to reassure you that in these unsettling times the **Prevent Team** are still available for support and advice should you need us.

Please continue to contact us by: **Email:**

prevent@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

As we know **safeguarding** young people remains highly important and remote teaching brings with it greater challenges. Children will increasingly be using social networks to reach out to others and with that there will be an **increased risk to fake news and online harms** including grooming, radicalisation, exploitation, and bullying. All these issues could impact on their mental health and wellbeing. This is a time when many young people will be vulnerable and unfortunately, the potential for exploitation will be at its highest.

The UK Safer internet Centre has identified the following online risk categories;

- Behaviour: sharing too much information
- Content: age-inappropriate or unreliable content or fake news
- Contact: strangers, bullies, groomers or radicalisers can contact children
- Commercialism and financial exploitation: hidden costs of advertising in apps, games and websites
- Extremism and radicalisation

Also be aware of the potential increase of fake/poor quality organisations offering online learning to young people. Please ensure that parents and young people are clearly directed to the platform/resources you are recommending and that they are aware of the potential for rogue offers.

Finally, please **encourage parents to speak with their children about their online activity.**

Remind young people of their digital citizenship responsibilities and to look after themselves and others.

Any concerns that they have ensure that parents know who to contact at school. And, obviously any concerns about radicalisation parents can also come direct to the Prevent team.

Online material promoting terrorism or extremism can be reported anonymously using [the Online Tool](#) on the Gov.UK website.

The UK Safer Internet Centre has a [Professionals Online Safety Helpline](#) - 0344 381 4772

There are a number of **resources to support schools** in this area including the following:-

1. The **NSPCC** has produced some useful guidance [‘Undertaking remote teaching safely’](#).
2. [SWGfI](#) has also provided useful guidance and has a **Safe Remote Learning Resource**.
3. **Google** has also produced a hub of resources for teachers: [Teach from Home](#)
4. **Parent Zone** are currently offering a free three-month Parent Zone membership to all schools. Membership gives you access to a wealth of resources you can share with families to help them be more digitally resilient.

The Digital Schools Members’ Area includes free access to an online advice and learning hub for your school’s parents, plus a range of resources for teachers including lesson plans, policy documents, training videos, classroom posters and briefings.

[Click here](#) then choose Digital Schools. Click the **Add to cart button** then complete the membership form.

On the payment screen, you’ll see a box labelled **Coupon code**, into which you can enter your free three-month membership code: **Free219June for Digital Schools**.

Below is also a **selection of resources available for parents:-**

1. [NSPCC NetAware](#) provides a useful guide to social networks, apps and guide.

2. [National Online Safety](#) have produced a series of top tips guides to support remote learning for Parents, Children and Teachers.
3. [Thinkuknow](#) is the education programme from NCA-CEOP, a UK organisation which protects children both online and offline for different age groups and parents.
4. [Childnet](#) has produced a Parent and Carer Toolkit which is a collection of three resources designed to help you talk to your child about their online life, manage boundaries around family internet use and point you in the direction of where to get further help and support.

Finally, we wish you all the very best in these unprecedented times. Please don't hesitate to contact us should you require any support or advice.

Best wishes

Richmond and Wandsworth Prevent