Lawford C of E Primary School Questionnaire Feedback

‘The Dark Web’ – E-Safety Training for Parents, Teachers and Governors

Tuesday 31st January 2017

Approximately 60 parents, teachers and governors attended this training.

This summarises and draws together observations from a very successful and informative evening.

We have collated the feedback and tried to draw out some key observations to share with you.

Summary:
The training was both enlightening and frightening. It engaged the audience, showed many of us the gaps in our knowledge and experience but offered hope and advice to us as parents and staff in helping protect the children and effectively manage the risks working together with our children.

E safety is a real world problem to which our children are and will continue to be exposed. As teachers, parents and members of the school and wider community each of us have individual and collective responsibility to understand the risks and to help protect and guide our children.

What was the most useful part of the e-safety training?

It was clear from the Q&A that even those who saw themselves as the most internet savvy – that there was extremely large holes in the adults’ knowledge of the current risk factors associated with their children’s internet experiences.

The training highlighted the current Apps and websites that are the main cause for concern for those working in law enforcement and safeguarding children.

The presentation that was given was significantly different from past presentations showing the speed of development of the risks associated with e-safety.

The instructors clearly demonstrated the risk associated with sharing of photos and videos especially through the risk associated with photos betraying location.

The instructors explained the risks associated with video and streaming apps with real examples of how encounters can escalate. Live streaming is a significant risk factor and they highlighted how it is both easy to capture and save live streams, how they are permanent and how so many of the most popular sites and apps are now streaming and chat apps – both which expose children to risk.

They provided very important context and advice regarding dealing with the children’s use of ‘electronics.’

They provided relevant (and very recent) examples of experiences shared with them.
by children in workshops and training.

Protecting our children from and restricting access to and viewing of pornography has historically been a focus of internet safety – (which can be managed by shutting down browsers and reporting it.) This is still a risk and a problem – but arguably there are other larger risks and concerns to law enforcement professionals

it was emphasised that the current concerns and risks are associated with:
- abusers collecting and sharing imagery of children,
- abusers developing relationships with children through streaming and online chat embedded within sites and apps
- abusers blackmailing and manipulating children based on their past online mistakes
- other grooming activities – which can sometimes be highlighted by excessive views of footage or profiles, large numbers of likes and other forms of gifting within apps and websites

The instructors experience is that >80-90% of children admit to them that they will not speak to their parents about bad experiences online. This can be:
- because the access to the technology can be removed
- because it can escalate quickly and become embarrassing quickly
- for fear of being in ‘trouble’ with parents – whilst they are probably potentially in more trouble with strangers

They provided some strategies for parenting in the digital age — including being clear that withdrawal of access to technology or deleting apps from machines will not solve the problem. They emphasised an collaborative approach for even a Y2 or Y3 child is likely to navigate the technology with which they are familiar better than their parent.

It was clearly conveyed that the traditional ‘ Stranger Danger’ messages of men with ‘Sweets and Puppies’ are out dated and that a different mindset is required in 2017

A useful analogy was used and developed— whereby it was suggested that the internet was like a train. You wouldn’t let your child get on a train in foreign country and let them get off at any station and explore alone without you knowing anything about each station. We need to be on that journey – there will be some stations that are fine – but we would still check them before letting them play. WE should be with children in their internet experience, be with them, learn together and understand together.

They discussed how the risks are different for Y1 and Y4 and Y6 as the children quickly move through the various apps – with each level producing new risks and dangers.

**Are there any actions you will be putting into place as a result of this briefing?**

Most attendees recorded a need to communicate better with the children about what they are doing online
Many resolved to spend time with the children in their virtual world

Every one understood that it was imperative to maintain a watch on the apps that are being used

Some acknowledged the need to check all devices have parental controls

Some committed to reassure the children that whilst they might get in trouble online – they will not get in trouble with their parents as their parents will help to keep them safe.

Do you have any suggestions about how the school can support you or your child further in terms of e-safety?

Parents asked for access to a listing of Apps or websites that have been identified as high risk to be added to the school website and communicated to parents

All parents are advised to follow the Facebook pages of the instructors – where they regularly post updates to sites that are causing the biggest concerns. 
https://www.facebook.com/The2johns/

Parent attendees requested follow up sessions and suggested that the instructors could do sessions with the children.

Websites to view:

https://www.facebook.com/The2johns/

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/ - there is a link on our school website.

Some popular Apps of which to be very cautious – there are and will be others.

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Debbie Smith - School E-Safety officer

Ben Richardson - E-Safety Link Governor