



Gooseberry Alert 24

Responsibility Online

Who or what should be responsible for safety online?

Welcome to your 'Gooseberry Alert'. Please feel free to share the 'Gooseberry Planet Tips/Thoughts/Discussions of the Week'. Helping to keep you and your whole school community Safer Online.

Gooseberry Student 'Problem and Activity' of the week

The Big Question: Should technology have the responsibility of keeping us safer online?

A child of primary school age signs up to play a free online game, using their parent's device and with their permission. The game is for players who are 13 years and over, is full of adverts and allows players to message each other.

The child gets a friendly message from another player asking to chat. The two begin to message each other and the child happily shares information about themselves. The messages become more frequent and demanding. The child begins to feel upset and uncomfortable about what they are being told to share.



Discuss the following questions.

- 🍓 **What are the risks to the child/parents and device? Are there any other risks?**
- 🍓 Thinking about the different risks and the situation, **who or what could have made this situation safer and when?**
- 🍓 In your opinion, **who has the greatest responsibility in this situation?** Explain your thoughts.
- 🍓 **How could technology help?** – to reduce the risks, detect the risks or respond to the risks.
- 🍓 **What do you wish your technology could do to help keep you or other people safer online?**

Key Message: *We all have a role to play in keeping ourselves and others safer online.*

Please share with students.

Gooseberry Teacher 'Thoughts and Tips' of the week

Professionally, **technology is a powerful tool and resource for teachers** but it is important to be mindful about how it used socially.

Take a few moments to **think about how you have connected, created and shared with others online over the past week, month and year.**

What does your online presence look like and say about you?

- 🍓 **Time for a check-up** - Check, edit and secure all social media accounts, the information you shared online in the past might not be something you would feel comfortable sharing now and in the future.
- 🍓 **How can you reduce the risk in the future when connecting, creating and sharing online?**

We all have a role to play in keeping ourselves and others safer online.

Please share with staff.





Gooseberry Parent 'Thoughts and Tips' of the week

We all have a role to play in keeping ourselves and others safer online.

Take a few moments to **think about how you have connected, created and shared with others online over the past week. How safe and responsible have you and others been?**

Demonstrating responsibility online is not about 'taking the blame' if something goes wrong, but about being **proactive and putting measures in place to help reduce and respond to the risks of problems online.**

- **Be positive:** Demonstrating positive, responsible and safer behaviour online can help our children do the same.
- **Reduce the risks:** Be aware of what your child is doing online. Remind them about responsible behaviour online, communicate clear expectations and create healthy boundaries. These approaches can support your child and promote more responsible decision making online.
- **Respond accordingly:** Take time to listen to your child and keep calm in response to an issue. Your child may be more likely to ask you for help in the future if they experience difficulties off or online.

Please share with Parents.



In the news... In the news... In the news... In the news... In the news...

Gooseberry Alert 22 introduced 'Messenger Kids' a Facebook style App for the under 13s. Read this alert and our archived Gooseberry Alerts [here](#).

Facebook 'no place' for young children

Update: Child experts urge Facebook to withdraw 'Messenger Kids'

In an [open letter](#) from the 'Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood', researchers have called for a stop to 'Messenger Kids', an App specifically developed for children, marketed as a 'safer' alternative to Facebook.

They argue that 'young children are not ready to have social media accounts'. There is growing research that shows excessive use of digital technology and social media can be harmful. Research has linked social media usage with mental health issues and increased depression and anxiety.

As part of the UK's 'Digital Strategy', the UK government met social media companies and hardware manufacturers in November 2017. Amongst other Issues, topics under discussion were:

- methods for preventing under-age users from accessing Apps, games and platforms
- what constitutes cyber-bullying? and how can it be addressed?
- the feasibility of creating pop-up warnings for youngsters who spend a long time online

Read the full BBC article [here](#).

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