Online Safety

A Guide to Online Safety and Gaming

As a new generation of young people arrive onto using multiplayer games and the internet in general this new year, it is more important than ever to make your pupils aware of how to stay safe online. The SWGfL has published a pamphlet on how to best keep safe whilst using online software and games. With advice on reporting and blocking, online socialization and the considerations on online gaming, the pamphlet can be a useful resource for any teaching staff, giving lessons on the topic. You can find a link to that resource below:

https://swgfl.org.uk/assets/documents/online-safety-and-gaming.pdf

Understanding the Playground - Fortnite

Since its release 2017, the battle-royale simulator – Fortnite, has become ubiquitous in classrooms and playgrounds throughout the world. The game, which features cartoonish renderings of characters, bright colours and non-visceral consequence free violence, has had a mass appeal to children. Each Christmas another draft of young pupils are induced into its overcrowded multi-player lobbies, to the point that there is not a school pupil in the country who hasn't owned it, begged their parents for it or played it round a friend's house. As a result more children than ever are exposed to multi-player chatting with strangers, and financial exploitation via the game's spend-to-gain-advantage operating style. Allowing children to use real world money to gain perks and costumes. From criminal blackmailing, to the coercion of nude exchanges by online 'friends' posing as children, the danger this game presents from a safeguarding perspective is clear. As an added complication, the verbiage surrounding the game used by pupils is near-incomprehensible, frustrating adepts to secure their safety. Fortunately to allow for greater comprehension of reports to staff involving the game, Internetmatters.org has published a guide to understanding the game and its terms. You can find the link below:

https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/fortnite-battle-royal-parents-guide-keep-kids-safe-gaming

Child Safety and the Metaverse

Christmas has now come to a close and a new year has begun. As pupils and staff return to school, the annual playground inquisition will begin. Among their peer group young people will begin to discuss what they got for Christmas. For many the answer will almost certainly be 'a Fortnite battle pass, a new PC, a PlayStation 5 etc'. All devices which allow both unfettered access to the internet and expose children to voice chat, text chat and photo sharing with complete strangers. This year presents an acceleration of vulnerability window as, VR headsets, connected to Facebook's Metaverse have been released onto the marketplace. The Metaverse seeks to link users to the internet as a Virtual Entity through the use of Virtual Reality Headsets. This amplifies the danger children are exposed to online. Over the coming months it will be vital for DSL's to understand these Christmas gifts and the issues linked to them. To help you understand this new, fast changing issue the NSPCC has published a guide to both the Metaverse and VR headsets. To find out more please follow the link:

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2022/christmas-vr-safety-advice-for-parents-metaverse/

Help available for households facing risk of homelessness

Harrow Council has received funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to help residents living in private rented accommodation in the borough who may be at risk of losing their home due to rent arrears and residents who need help securing private rented accommodation.

Households can self-refer or be referred to Harrow Council for assistance until March 2023.

Each household's circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The funding can be used to prevent evictions and homelessness, such as for a payment directly to the existing landlord to prevent an eviction or to a new landlord to support a household to find a new home.

Referrals or self-referrals can be made using the dedicated webform that can be found here: **www.harrow.gov.uk/winterfund** or by contacting the Homelessness Prevention & Solutions Team on 0208 424 1093 (option 1).

Harrow COUNCIL
LONDON

Collect your FREE pre-packed meal

3 locations in Harrow!

London's Community Kitchen, HA3 5BD
Fridays 3:00pm to 5:00pm

Kenmore Park Children's Centre, HA3 9HZ
Saturdays 11:00am to 1:00pm

The Salaam Centre, 39 Gloucester Road, HA1 4PR
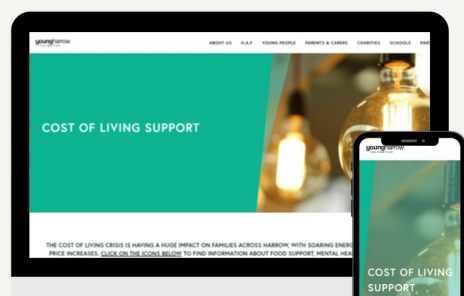Sundays 12:00pm to 2:00pm

All faiths, all backgrounds welcome

A FREE meal whatever your need

Soul Kitchen
Great food, Great company

www.soulkitchenuk.co.uk
info@soulkitchenuk.co.uk

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youngharrow
foundation

COST OF LIVING SUPPORT

https://youngharrowfoundation.org/cost-of-living-support

On-line Course

Living with Teens

A course for all parents and carers of children aged 12yrs plus

Date: Wednesday 18th January 2023

Finishing: Wednesday 15th March 2023
(8 sessions)
(No session during February half term)

Time: 7.00 - 9.00pm

Venue: On-line via ZOOM

Cost: £60.00/£30.00 concession (with proof)

Price is per parent/carer living in London

HOPE
Helping Families to Live and Learn Together

As a parent it can be exciting and satisfying seeing our children grow into unique individuals and also challenging as they navigate life as a teenager.

Topics include:-

- Understanding and acknowledging the needs of pre teens and teenagers
- Understanding why Teens do what they do
- Negotiating and setting limits
- Finding different ways to communicate effectively
- Peer pressure

SCAN ME TO ENROL

0208 863 7319 or 07498881496   info@hopeharrow.org.uk

www.hopeharrow.org.uk   Charity Registration Number: 1091703

HarrowCOUNCIL LONDON

On-line Workshop

Positive Discipline

A workshop for all parents /carers of children aged 3-18yrs

Date: Monday 16th January 2023

Time: 7.00 - 9.00pm

Venue: On-line via ZOOM

Cost: £15.00/£7.50 concession (with proof)

Price is per parent/carer living in London

HOPE
Helping Families to Live and Learn Together

As a parent it can be exciting and satisfying seeing our children grow into capable young adults and also challenging when they decide they want things their own way. We will look at parenting our children with respect, making sure it's consistent and, firm but fair, ensuring we create a long lasting positive relationship.

Topics include:

Understanding the needs behind behaviour – Why children do what they do?
How to provide warmth and structure even when struggling with challenging behaviours
Increasing Self –Esteem & Confidence
Promoting mutual respectful
Strategies to reverse unacceptable behaviour

SCAN ME TO ENROL

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