

All schools aspire to safeguard their students. They take seriously how students treat themselves and each other both online and offline. Sharon Girling OBE visits schools to present and offer advice to the students, staff and parents on how the online activities of young people not only affects them today but will impact their future.

Presentation outline

Young people are using the internet daily. They change where they go online and the games they play and use regularly. It is therefore vitally important that staff and parents are equipped with the knowledge and understanding they need to keep children safe across these wide range of online environments and situations. In some instances, a young person's online presence will define their offline lives. The choices about the information they share and how they behave online has consequences for their safety, their education, their wellbeing and other life experiences. The information provided during the parents' evening will enable parents to continue the learning at home.

Presentations

The session content is:

Year 7 – This session is based on a discussion relating to online bullying. We will watch a film and learn how to report concerns and support those who are victims of online bullying as well as those who may be bullying for a reason.

Year 8 – This session discusses with students the way in which inappropriate images are shared online by them and their peers. The students will watch a film and then we will discuss how this could impact on them and their wellbeing.

Year 9 – The session looks at online harassment v online bullying. It shows some cases, and the students will watch a film.

Year 10 - This session helps students to explore their online identity. It will assist them in viewing themselves through the eyes of others.

Year 11 - This session looks at online blackmail and how quickly a friendship made online can be something that was unexpected.

Years 12 and 13 - This session is based on the student's online footprint and presence. It explains how their online accounts are important when applying for college placements or employment.

Staff – Learning from the days and safeguarding CPD

Parents

The information provided during the parents' evening will link to the presentations given to the students. It will enable parents to continue the learning at home and will include all or some of the following:

- Looking at the positives of the internet;
- Online facts identifying young people's vulnerabilities;
- Learning from the day with the students;
- An understanding of what young people do online and the aspects of the activity they enjoy;
- What to look out for as young people engage in online gaming both from a user and parent perspective;

- Explanation of current games and apps and some tips for parents;
- An understanding of the basic rules of social networking and how to use it safely;
- How to set up your devices with step-by-step guides;
- Useful resources, solutions, and top tips.

The presentation is for a period of 60-75 minutes.

Presenter

Sharon Girling OBE is a former police officer who retired following thirty years' service. She was at the forefront of a national and international response to online child abuse and developed the processes and procedures that led to the creation of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre. Her final role was as an investigator at the CEOP. Sharon is currently delivering training programmes for schools, Premier League Football Clubs, The Scouts Association, law enforcement, charities and businesses both nationally and internationally.

Sharon has been awarded an OBE by Her Majesty the Queen for her services to policing the internet.