

05/01/2021

Staying Safe Online During the Coronavirus Pandemic

Online lessons

Some learners have been asked to access their lessons from home using Google Classroom - an online platform where learners can meet virtually with their tutors and peers. This has been arranged in order to mitigate the risk of covid-19 and ensure that classrooms do not exceed the maximum capacity. It is important for both tutors and learners to treat their online lessons as they would if they were to physically attend college.

Expectations of learners accessing online lessons

It is important that learners ensure they are accessing their online lessons in an appropriate manner, we are asking learners to:

- Ensure there is a neutral background if on a video session
- Ensure they are appropriately dressed and ready for the session
- Ensure learners are situated in a quiet space to minimise disruption to the online class from background noise etc.
- Respect their peers and tutors when using the internet to access their online lessons and maintain professional boundaries
- Attend all online classes on time; bursary payments may be effected by lateness and absence of online lessons

Tutors and staff will:

- Ensure contact with learners is kept within college times (10am - 6pm)
- Use company mobiles/ email addresses to contact learners or their parents/carers
- Ensure that when delivering lessons online, their background is neutral and lessons are delivered in a private and quiet space

Setting up WIFI parental restrictions

We encourage parents/carers to set up filters on their WIFI at home to ensure that inappropriate content is not being accessed by devices used by children in the home. Guidance on how to set up parental controls on WIFI from different providers (BT, Sky, Virgin Media, Talk Talk) can be found here: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parental-controls-offered-your-home-internet-provider>

Government guidance on supporting your child's education

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The government has provided guidance for parents/carers on how to support their child's education during the coronavirus pandemic. This also includes advice and guidance on supporting your child's mental health and wellbeing during these challenging times: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-childrens-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Child Protection and wellbeing

It is important for staff to be aware of any safeguarding concerns and acknowledge that these may stem from the home environment; a learner may also make a disclosure during an online session. Concerns may arise when:

- a staff member sees or hears something worrying during an online lesson
- a learner discloses abuse during a phone call or via email

Staff members who have concerns for learners will report this to the Designated Safeguarding Lead for further investigation / reporting.

We are currently in unprecedented times and with people confined to their homes due to the global pandemic, we are using the internet more now than perhaps ever before.

We are using online services for many reasons; to access work, research the latest developments or simply to socialise via one of the many popular apps such as HouseParty, Instagram and Zoom.

It is important that we all do our best to use the internet safely and are aware of how to report any untoward or inappropriate content found online. Below are some tips to help you stay safe online throughout the coronavirus pandemic:

Video chat apps

There has been a recent surge of the use of video chat and live-streaming apps since the population are spending more time at home. These apps can be a great way to stay connected to your most loved ones, however, there are also some dangers to using these apps.

It is important to remember that live streams can be screen-recorded and stored on devices- ensure you are acting responsibly and appropriately when socialising using these apps.

Are you using HouseParty or other popular apps to chat with your friends or others online? Ensure you know how to protect yourself by reading NetAware's guide on staying safe whilst using these apps:

HouseParty: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/houseparty/>

Snapchat: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/snapchat/>

Instagram: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/instagram/>

Reporting hurtful or inappropriate content online

If, during your online journey you stumble across some upsetting content, it is important that you are aware of how to report the post or profile. You must initially report this content directly to the app (e.g: report a profile or post directly to Instagram via the 'report' link).

If you are the victim of online bullying and/or harassment it is also important to report this to the app as well as blocking the profile in which the messages are coming from. We also encourage internet users to report any inappropriate, illegal, explicit, identifying or distressing content to [CEOP](#) through their website.

Keep personal information private

It is important to think carefully about any personal information that might be shared – given many of us will be confined to our homes, boredom could set in and people could find they lower their guard with regards to social media.

You must never share your personal information online with strangers; when you post a photo, video or information online, it's worth thinking about the type of information that you may be sharing and who has access to view what you have posted.

You can find more information and advice about sharing information online at [Childnet](#).

To speak to a member of staff regarding online safety or to share a safeguarding concern please contact:

Brad.Clapson@artemis.college or Rosie.Hill@artemis.college

Useful Links;

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>