

Safer Schools Newsletter

December 2020



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

CYP GANGS & SCHOOLS TEAM



#STOPKNIFECRIME

Welcome from the Herts Police Gangs & Schools Team. We are a dedicated team that work with local Officers and partners to prevent youth related crime. We conduct a range of prevention and engagement work to raise awareness of knife crime, gang & criminal exploitation to keep you safe.

Get Safe Online

With new phones and other devices

allowing access to the internet on so many Christmas wish lists we thought this would be a good time to remind everyone about how to stay safe online.

Love it or hate it, chances are your child will be online gaming this Christmas. If you're like most parents, you'll have children who play games online, whether on a tablet, mobile, computer or console.

In most cases, online gaming is fun, social and harm-free. But we need to be realistic, and parents are right to

be concerned about a world they may not be familiar with. The risks range from downloading a computer virus, to bullying or even being targeted by a predator with sinister motives.

As parents, it's impossible to know what your children are doing all of the time, particularly when it comes to online gaming. In the same way you would warn your kids about the risks of riding a bike or crossing a road, it's important to educate them to online security dangers early on so you can feel comfortable knowing they are playing safely and know when to alert someone to anything suspicious.

Top Tips for Safe Online Gaming

- Have an open and honest talk with your kids about online gaming and the risks involved.
- Tell them never to reveal private information like their real name, email address, home address, telephone numbers, family members, financial details or school they go to.
- Explain that not everybody is who they seem or claim to be, and their motives may be suspicious.
- Tell them not to respond to bullying or other abuse, and to tell you straight away if it happens.
- Tell them to tell you straight away if someone makes inappropriate suggestions or makes them feel uncomfortable online.
- Join in with their gaming sometimes, to get an idea of the games and who they're connecting with.
- Set and monitor limits for the amount of daily or weekly time your kids spend online gaming.
- Check age ratings of games to ensure your kids aren't accessing inappropriate content.
- Never give your child your payment card details as extras can be very costly.

Visit www.getsafeonline.org/safeguarding-children and click on your child's age group to find out more.



Cyberbullying

What is Cyberbullying and online Harassment?

- Cyberbullying is any form of bullying which takes place online.
- This can be done over smartphones, tablets, online gaming, chat rooms, social media and more.
- Online harassment is the act of sending offensive, rude and insulting messages and being abusive.
- If someone purposefully keeps sending you offensive messages that make you feel scared, it could be illegal.



Cyberbullying is NOT ACCEPTABLE

- Bullying someone whether online or offline is wrong.
- It can badly affect their mental health.
- Harassing someone and/or sending malicious or threatening messages to someone repeatedly is **ILLEGAL**.
- If you are found to be cyberbullying someone, there could be criminal consequences.

What to do if you are being cyberbullied

If someone is bullying you, here is what you can do to put a stop to it...get **SMART**.

Screenshot any nasty messages.

My privacy settings.

Avoid talking to them any further.

Report the incident on whatever site you are using.

Talk to someone (parent, carer, teacher, friend or the police if necessary).

How to cope with the effects of Cyberbullying

- You must not blame yourself. No one deserves to be treated cruelly by anyone.
- It can make you feel very upset, alone and like no one will understand or help you.
- **REMEMBER** you are not alone and there are lots of people who can help you. Make sure you tell someone and do not try to deal with this on your own.
- For confidential help and advice: NSPCC nspcc.org.uk or Bullying UK bullying.co.uk

When to tell the Police

- If you are ever threatened with physical harm, being repeatedly harassed, being sent malicious messages.
- If it's not an immediate emergency, phone **101** or use our online webchat service.
- If it is an immediate emergency phone **999**.

www.safe4me.co.uk/portfolio/cyber-bullying/

safe4me

Do you know it's illegal to use an electric scooter in a public place?

You can only use an e-scooter on private land with the landowner's permission.

If you ride in public - on roads or pavements - your scooter may be seized by police and you may face a fine and/or penalty points on your licence.

Full details of the government's legislation on e-scooters can be found on the gov.uk website.



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exp 28 Feb 2021

~~LIVES~~ **NOT** ~~KNIVES~~

event brought to you by

Hertfordshire Constabulary CYP Gangs & Schools Team

An opportunity to listen live to a variety of inspirational speakers with real life experience of knife crime and gang affiliation.

Are you ready to hear the TRUTH behind the headlines, think it's about excitement, money and status?



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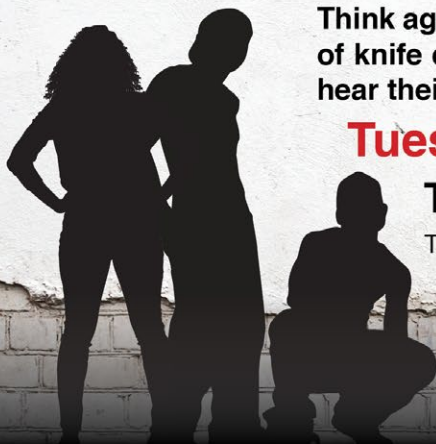
#STOPKNIFECRIME

Think again... tune in to our inspirational speakers with lived experience of knife crime and serious violence and have the unique opportunity to hear their stories & ask them questions about their experiences.

Tuesday 26th January 2021 | 6pm - 7.30pm

To watch the event live - @ @hertspolice

There will be the opportunity to ask the speakers questions at the end of the event.



Bike Marking

Hertfordshire is a safe place with some of the lowest crime levels in the country. Despite this more than 1,000 bicycles are reported stolen every year and of those recovered, most are auctioned simply because there's no way of knowing who the owners are. Failure to secure or register them correctly makes them an easy target for thieves.

Hertfordshire Constabulary has joined the National BikeRegister Scheme (the UK's national cycle database and the leading security marking and registration initiative), proven to reduce cycle theft and identify stolen bikes.

To reduce the chances of becoming a victim of cycle theft, we highly recommend the use of a Secured by Design BikeRegister marking kit and the The BikeRegister APP, is a convenient way for police officers to search the BikeRegister database for ownership details of recovered bikes and gives officers access to vital

information in real-time.

Hertfordshire Constabulary holds regular bike marking events around the county. Bike marking is provided FREE to members of the public and is used to help support road safety. If you own a bike, you are strongly recommended to ensure the bike is registered at any advertised event or you may register the bike yourself at:

www.bikeregister.com/

Registering on BikeRegister is a vital step in the fight against bike theft, and means you can be reunited with your bikes in the event of them being stolen.

For further details, contact your local Police Safer Neighbourhood Team.



For Coronavirus advice and mental health support contact www.youngminds.org.uk

If you need to contact the Police please call us on 101 or 999 in an emergency. You can also speak to us online and find more information at www.herts.police.uk.