



Welcome to the New Year's edition of the Safe Schools and Communities Team E-Safety Newsletter.

It is safe to say that last year we were very busy indeed and have delivered education to a lot of young people and professionals across Dorset. Unfortunately we have also been busy dealing with a high number of incidents, particularly relating to Sexting.

We want to remind all parents about the importance of discussing E-Safety with your children, regardless of their age, to talk to them about what websites and apps they're using and who they are talking to.

If Santa bought any new technology this Christmas, why not use this as an opportunity to start the discussions and consider applying appropriate parental controls as well.

### **Sexting**

We have seen a concerning increase in the number and nature of Sexting incidents in recent months, with several explicit images being sent via technology by young people.

Whilst advances in technology make this all too easy, it is the behaviour of young people that is concerning. Recent research has suggested that there is a culture amongst young people where Sexting has become an accepted 'norm' which young people do not see as a concern.

We would strongly encourage parents to have open discussions with children about what pictures they would consider appropriate to send and which ones they wouldn't. Whilst it is difficult to give an age at which to do this, we have seen an increase amongst those students transitioning to secondary or upper schools.

### **Vodafone Guardian**

The Vodafone Guardian is a parental control app available for android phones and tablets.

Some of the features allow you to:

- Add a parental phone number so that you receive updates
- Allow or block apps, including those preinstalled on the device
- Create time limits for the device

Please note you will also need to install the Add-on for Vodafone Guardian to notify you if it is removed or altered.

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.vodafone.safetynet.core&hl=en\\_GB](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.vodafone.safetynet.core&hl=en_GB)

### **Safer Internet Day 2014**

Of course you all know that it is the 11th February, but did you know that the theme is 'Let's create a better internet together!' The Safe Schools and Communities Team will be encouraging schools to become involved, but you can also click on the link below to find out how you too could become involved!

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2014/info-for-parents-and-carers>



stopthinkdorset  
<http://greasy.com/q/000FLR>



The 1<sup>st</sup> QR code will take you to our website. The 2<sup>nd</sup> will take you to @stopthinkdorset on twitter.