



ThinkUKnow e-Newsletter - Volume 4, Issue 2

The theme of Safer Internet Day 2013 is “Online Rights and Responsibilities” and users around the world are encouraged to “Connect with respect”. So what does respect look like in a digital environment where we may be communicating with inanimate programs (do we respect things that aren’t alive?) or with people that we don’t know or who don’t know us (is respect only important when it is visible?)? I would argue that respect needs to be shown in all our actions as not only do they reflect on us, but affect how others show us respect.

Respecting privacy

There is no doubt that our concept of privacy is continually evolving and it may seem as though much of what we used to call private, is acted out in public. Private conversations between lovers are conducted over mobile phones in crowded buses and trains, personal journals are published online for the world to see and people place stickers representing their family members and pets on their cars for other road users to see. We still, however, make the decision about what personal information we share about ourselves and others, and with whom we share it.

It is more difficult to control what personal information others share about us, but there are a few steps we can take to protect ourselves:

Time2Talk

In this section we look at ways to start talking with children and young people about their use of technology.

What do you think your rights are when you use technology?

What do you think your responsibilities are when you use technology?

Do you see more respectful communications online than disrespectful communications?

How can you better respect privacy, relationships and reputation?

- Would I like it done to me?
- What sort of an environment am I creating?
- How would I feel if everyone knew it was me?

Respecting reputations

Reputations are shaped by many factors – our actions, what people say about us, popular culture and who we associate with. It