



## ThinkUKnow e-Newsletter - Volume 2 Issue 4

This week is National Youth Week 2011 (1-10 April) and this year's theme is "Own it!" Children and young people are full of great ideas on how digital technologies can be used positively and have awesome insight into what would help make these technologies, or their use, even safer. In this issue of the ThinkUKnow e-newsletter, we're going to take the theme of National Youth Week and apply it to ethical digital citizenship.

### Own the policies around ethical use

Young people need to be involved in any policies developed at home or school that relate to their use of technologies. They need to be consulted about what, when and how they use technology, whether it's just having the conversation at dinner, or a school wide survey on technology use. There's no point writing a detailed school policy on use of email if hardly any of your students are using email.

Young people can also suggest balanced responses for breaches of guidelines, advise what reporting mechanisms they would actually use and what support they need to deal with these issues on their own. They're probably more likely to follow rules that they have helped to develop and feel a sense of ownership over them as well.

### Own your actions, take responsibility for them

We need to encourage young people to not hide behind their screens (computer,

### Time2Talk

This section provides some useful conversation starters for talking with young people about their use of technology.

**If you could create one rule around the use of technology, what would it be?**

**Do you think it's easier for someone to say something online than face-to-face? Why/why not?**

**How would you feel if someone copied your school project and didn't acknowledge your work? Do you think artists and directors feel the same about their works being illegally downloaded?**

**Do you think it's fair that potential employers will search applicants online?**

### Launch of ThinkUKnow youth website

As part of National Youth Week, we're launching an array of new online features. Most importantly, we'll be launching our youth website on Wednesday 6 April with the Minister for Home Affairs, Mr Brendan O'Connor. Please check out the new content after the launch and inform the children and young people in your care of this new online resource.

mobile or portable gaming device) and take responsibility for what they do and say online. They need to think about their actions and take responsibility for how their words affect others.

### Own your multimedia

Peer-to-peer and filesharing programs allow children and young people to download music, movies and TV shows without actually paying for them. Not only could this violate copyright and intellectual property laws, but they could inadvertently be downloaded viruses or explicit content. Young people need to be encouraged to use legitimate means of purchasing multimedia, such as iTunes, not only to avoid breaking the law, but also to prevent exposure to illegal content. Children and young people should also be asked how they would feel if people used their work without permission and didn't acknowledge the hard work put into creating that work.

### Own your future

The web never forgets and what happens on Facebook doesn't just stay on Facebook. Once something is created in a digital format and then shared, you lose control over who sees it and what they do with it. Children and young people need to think before they post or share something electronically as their actions today can impact on their future. They need to be aware that their digital shadow forms their unofficial CV and they should be trying to leave positive digital marks, such as involvement in online advocacy groups or contributing to meaningful online discussions, not negative digital marks such as engaging in cyberbullying or sharing inappropriate content.

Accompanying the youth website will be a Facebook page where we'll provide some useful tips for young people, as well as providing them with opportunities to provide their views on how to promote the safe and responsible use of technology.

For parents, carers and teachers, we're also launching a blog on the current ThinkUKnow website which will provide the latest research, as well as comments functions. We're also starting up a Twitter account and will let you know more details as they develop.

These new features will help us to make sure that everyone has access to important Internet safety information in convenient and accessible ways so that we can all have a safe and enjoyable digital experience