

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Recently we have received a number of reports regarding a new app that can be downloaded onto handheld devices called “**ooVoo**”. We are writing to remind parents and carers of how important it is to keep children safe whilst they are using the internet.

**ooVoo** is a new app that gives free video chat and instant messaging for any device. **ooVoo** lets you group video chat with up to 12 people anytime and anywhere.

Although this seems a great app and used wisely is a great way for adults and children to communicate free of charge, it needs to be used wisely and safely.

Along with other apps and multimedia sites we always give the following advice for you and especially your children to keep safe.

- Encourage your children to use their devices in the presence of adults e.g. downstairs and not upstairs in private rooms.
- Set up their profiles using your email account and then any updates or friend requests shall come to you first.
- Do not accept people they do not know and wouldn't speak to in everyday life.
- Teach your children not to take photos or post comments that they would not show their parents or grandparents, as they are probably not suitable to share with others.
- To remind your children that people still have feelings and although easier to type hurtful comments people still hurt when reading them.
- Check your children's profiles at least twice a week.

There are a number of websites that we recommend parents to use and have fantastic resources that you and your children can use together to learn the safest way of using the internet. These are “[thinkyouknow.co.uk](http://thinkyouknow.co.uk)” and “[ceop.police.uk](http://ceop.police.uk)”.

The children will have a talk and will learn about Esafety within their school, that Staffordshire police support them with.

If you have queries or questions about the issues raised please contact your school or Staffordshire police on 101.

Yours Sincerely

Stoke-On-Trent South Local Policing Team



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