



Dear Parents

Facebook, Form Spring, BBM, online gaming, MSN. These are terms with which you are probably very familiar as part of the growing phenomenon of young people's virtual lives. For the most part, pupils will use these productively and positively. At PGS we limit access to social networking sites to avoid the obvious distractions, but with the proliferation of 3G devices we recognise that pupils have increasing access throughout the day and that it is increasingly important therefore that we teach our pupils how to use the Internet safely at all times as technology becomes ever more mobile.

Whilst the virtual world would be creative, collaborative and fun, young people need to be aware that what happens online can affect their real lives in real time as well. On Safer Internet Day, 8 February 2011, we will be focusing on the theme **"It's more than a game, it's your life"**.

As parents and teachers, it is helpful for us to be able to work together in supporting our children and we hope that you will be able to participate in the activities planned for this year's Safer Internet Day.

1. **An online questionnaire** – we would invite you to help us to establish the use, behaviour and awareness of pupils and parents at PGS.
2. **An interactive activity from Digizen**

You might like to watch the cyber bullying film *Let's fight it together* available at <http://www.digizen.org/resources/cyberbullying/films/uk/lfit-film.aspx> and then complete the interactive activity.

The game can be found at <http://www.digizen.org/resources/digizen-game.aspx>.

3. **Some points to highlight:**

- a. Are your child's social networking site settings to private?
- b. Are you a 'friend' of your child on Facebook? If not, why not?
- c. Does your child have photos that are appropriate?
- d. Do you have a way of monitoring your child's internet usage?
- e. Facebook posts? Does your child think first? What would parents/university tutors/friends/future employers think?

The following link has some very sensible advice:

<http://www.childnet-int.org/downloads/cyberbullyingOverview.pdf>

It's more than a game, it's your life!