

Saffron Cyber Second

In Partnership with EIPS Committee of School Councils

Who's on the Other End?



Little Billy was a boy we had met at one of our Internet Safety presentations. He seemed very on-edge and uncomfortable throughout. He approached our team and stated, "I have a great friend online. We play Xbox together. Everything you tell us is wrong. He's so nice he is going to send me a birthday present." This statement was all we needed to hear to know this boy could be in serious trouble. It seemed as though it was a miracle that his mother was picking him up from school that day. She came into the class and we asked if she knew that Billy had an online friend who was going to be sending him a gift through the mail. These words seemed to knock the wind right out of her. Like any concerned parent, her initial reaction was to contact law enforcement. Upon extensive investigation, it was found that the individual contacting Billy was an adult man residing two blocks away from Billy's home. After seizing this man's electronic devices, officials were able to find a list of 40 children's names, their addresses, and any other personal information shared.

TALK AND WATCH!

Children and youth can be contacted through multiple online channels - whether it be through social media or online gaming. It is essential to talk to children and youth about communicating with strangers online. Parents must be specific about what a stranger actually is because after children and youth have communicated with someone online a few times, they no longer consider them a 'stranger.' Be sure to also watch their gameplay to see who they are talking to.

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TIP

