



Local children highlight the importance of e-safety

As children become increasingly computer literate and technologically savvy, a growing number of children use the internet on a regular basis. Although users have access to many new sources of information, it also means that children are vulnerable as they may become exposed to internet grooming, cyber bullying and dubious websites.

Part of the success in ensuring that children are safe whilst online involves educating and informing them of the threats that exist and this is what one school in Northumberland, Seahouses Middle School, decided to do with its year eight class. The third largest local authority in the United Kingdom, Northumberland recently received an authority wide site-licence of a data analysis software programme called InspireData. This enables pupils to collate data and then observe it as it

moves before their eyes with just the click of an icon, thus making the visualisation of statistics more simplistic. It makes data analysis fun and engaging by enabling learners to actively investigate, analyse and represent data and information in dynamic graphs and charts.

So, with the help of Steve Robson, an ICT Consultant, Seahouses Middle School's ICT teacher, Jane Patterson conducted a project in which her pupils collected data regarding their online habits. It was decided they would then use InspireData to evaluate their findings. The fundamental aim of the four-week project was to allow children to research their peers' online habits in order to generate awareness, therefore achieving safety amongst pupils, teachers and parents.

One of the findings demonstrated that despite the majority of pupils spending under an hour each day on their home computers and some being supervised by parents, more than half of the school's pupils use chat rooms.

Also, the children learnt about the importance of e-safety within schools and how vital it is to educate pupils on how to stay safe while on-line. Not only did the students conclude that they need more education regarding how to maintain a high level of safety while online, but also that their parents required some tutoring on how to ensure their children are safe while using the internet.

For more information on Inspiration Software, visit the website at www.taglearning.com/inspiration or visit www.inspiration.com/global.