

School stamp here

MOBILE INDUSTRY
CRIME ACTION FORUM



Home Office

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Around a quarter (24%) of victims of mobile phone theft are aged between 10 and 17
[2007/08 British Crime Survey (BCS)]

Your child has been learning about mobile phone safety in school. Please help them to stay safe and keep their mobile safe by registering them on the website at www.immobilise.com. Immobilise is the world's largest FREE register of possession ownership details and with its sister site CheckMEND, the largest database of stolen property and blocked mobile phones.

According to the **Mobile Life Youth Report** three-quarters of young people have had their phone bought for them by their parents, while half have their calls paid for by their parents. If your child doesn't already have a mobile phone then you may be considering purchasing one for their transfer to secondary education. When deciding which phone to purchase, consider their needs at this age and perhaps opt for a basic model, rather than a wifi enabled smart phone, without expensive features and apps that makes them more attractive in terms of theft or bullying.

6% of children aged 10 to 15 years reported unwanted and nasty emails or texts, or abusive postings on a website. [British Crime Survey, 2011]

1 in 5 boys and girls aged 6 to 9 years old reported being the victim of cyberbullying
[AVG, 2011].

This is partly because children in the UK use social networks for longer than any other country and the advent of smart phones has made mobile social networking an any time, everyday pass-time. 1 in 10 of those questioned said they used Facebook, even though they were well beneath the minimum age limit of 13.

Mobile phones are stolen in about half of all street crime and in approximately a third of cases it is the only property stolen. [National Mobile Phone Crime Unit, 2010]

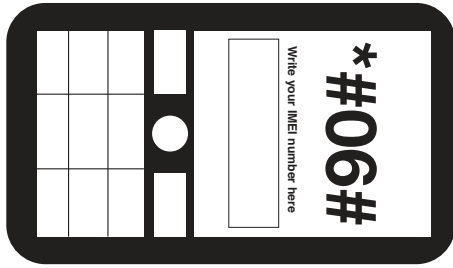
Registering your mobiles before they are lost or stolen, may help to recover the phone. In the event of loss or theft, the details of the handset will become available to Police and other agencies which may assist in its recovery, as well as provide those all important details for insurance purposes. Remember, however, that to have the phone blocked YOU MUST report the loss or theft to the network provider to ensure that it cannot be used to make calls by the finder or thief here in the UK. Call 08701 123123 for further advice.

Unfortunately blocking the handset from network use will not block access to personal information or online accounts which are not password protected, so encourage your child not to store sensitive personal information on their mobile unless it is password or PIN code protected.

A staggering 228 mobile phones are reported stolen every hour in the UK
[UK Technology, June 2010]

Remember to keep a note of your IMEI numbers and log on to www.immobilise.com for more information or to register your phones today. Encourage your child to carry the pocket sized **Watch it! Safety Tips** and emergency numbers with them wherever they go, if this leaflet has not been given to your child you can download it from the parents section at www.outofyourhands.com where you will also find other useful information and support on mobile phone safety and cyberbullying.

www.immobilise.com



Watch it! Safety Tips

www.outofyourhands.com

When a mobile phone is made it is given a unique electronic serial number known as the IMEI or International Mobile Equipment Identity. By registering this number with Immobilise your mobile handset can be blocked if it is lost or stolen, making it unusable on any network.

Here's what to do!

1. Dial *#06# on your mobile phone to display your unique IMEI number.
2. Make a note of it on the front of this booklet, then use it to register your mobile phone at www.immobilise.com
3. If your mobile phone is lost or stolen and you don't know the number of your network provider, call 08701 123 123 for further information.

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Watch it! Socialise

Watch it! Safety Tips

Follow these top tips to help reduce mobile phone crime and keep yourselves and your phones safe:

- Keep your mobile separate from your keys, purse or wallet.
- Set it to silent and keep it in a pocket so that you can check your safety before you answer.
- Move to a place where you feel safe before using your phone.
- Make sure your security lock PIN code is on, to stop others using it.
- Always try to walk home with friends. Avoid alley ways and short cuts that are away from main roads.
- Always tell an adult where you are going and what time you expect to be home.
- Be especially careful in busy public places, keep your mobile close to your body, use an inside pocket or hold it inside your bag.

Social networking is fun, but like texts, misunderstandings can happen and if photos or films are involved things can easily get out of hand. Here are some social networking tips to help you enjoy networking whilst staying safe.

- You wouldn't talk to a stranger in the street, so don't talk to people you don't know online.
- Never give out personal information, including your mobile number to anyone you don't already know.

- If you take photos or film others on your phone, consider how you would feel if the images were of you.
- If the photo or film is of you, then consider how others will see it.
- Never be tempted to write hurtful or unpleasant messages.

- If you receive nasty messages then tell an adult you trust straight away.
- Find out more about keeping yourself safe online by visiting <http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

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Watch it! Textwise

Watch it! Watch Out!

Remember you don't need to actually steal a mobile phone to be part of the mobile phone theft cycle.

- Don't be tempted to buy a cheap mobile from someone. If it looks too good to be true, then it probably is!
- Try not to boast about your latest gadgets. The newer and better your mobile is, the more attractive it is to thieves.
- Don't use your mobile in a situation where you feel unsafe except in an emergency.
- Let someone you trust know if you think someone may be being bullied or may be involved in mobile phone crime.
- Think before you make fun of others who are less fortunate than yourself.
- Remember to password or PIN code your handset to keep any personal information safe.

Misunderstandings from texts are common, so if it's important - make a call. Here are some text tips to help you be more textwise:

- Think about what you are trying to say and always check back what you have written.
- Don't be tempted to send angry or unkind messages. Call and sort things out.
- If you receive a text which upsets you, don't forward it to others - save it and tell someone you trust.
- Consider who you are texting and only use text language and icons if you know they'll understand.
- Remember to add your name to the message, especially if you've borrowed someone's phone!

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Watch it! Stay Smart

Watch it! Shout Out!

Even when we are careful, trouble still happens. Here is a self-help guide to coping in an emergency.

- Never stand your ground if you are threatened for your mobile or money, hand them over and then notify the police and Immobilise as soon as you can.
- Stay calm, breathing slowly will help.
- If you know where you are then call the emergency services free by dialling 999. Your call will be picked up locally and traced if required.
- An operator will ask the questions needed to help you - try and stay calm, and speak clearly.
- Call your family and let them know where you are.

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MOBILE INDUSTRY
CERTIFICATION FORUM

Home Office

- Only give out your mobile number to people you know.
- If you get a text or a call that upsets you then tell someone you trust.
- Register your mobile with Immobilise.
- Remember we can't block access to your personal information so always use a password or PIN code.
- Follow the Watch it! Safety Tips to keep yourselves and your mobiles safe from crime.

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