



‘Safer Internet Talks’ coming to a school near you soon!

Industry volunteers from Microsoft, UPC and O2 to visit over 10,000 children across Ireland to promote Safer Internet Day and encourage children and teachers to ‘Discover the digital world together.... safely!’

Safer Internet Day 2012, a global initiative to promote a safer Internet for all users, especially young people, will be celebrated in Ireland on Tuesday 7th February 2012.

Industry volunteers from Microsoft Ireland, UPC and O2, with support from the National Centre for Technology in Education (NCTE), will visit over 10,000 children across Ireland to promote Safer Internet Day and encourage children and teachers to ‘Discover the digital world together...safely!’.

As part of Safer Internet Day 2012, a programme of **‘Safer Internet Talks’** will take place in schools across the country throughout the month of February. As part of their commitment to support the government’s initiative to ensure safe use of the internet, Microsoft will facilitate almost 100 of their employees to get involved in the initiative to help children to protect their personal information online. O2 and UPC will also be sending volunteers into schools.

Speaking today about their involvement, Orla Sheridan, Head of Consumer, Microsoft Ireland, said “We take the issue of internet safety very seriously and have continuously invested in schemes and programmes to help educate young users of the internet and their parents about how to use this great resource in a safe and efficient manner. As part of Safer Internet Day we are delighted to be partnering with the government, educational representatives and law enforcement agencies to highlight the importance of this issue. Over 100 of our employees will be visiting schools both north and south of Ireland and we’re looking forward to meeting students and parents as part of this year’s campaign to ensure safe use of the internet.”

Over 10,000 students will participate in these internet safety workshops which will highlight the safety issues that can arise for children using the internet, including risks associated with online interactive services like Facebook, Twitter, Youtube and MSN. These talks will be delivered by volunteers from **Microsoft, UPC** and **O2** who will give students very clear practical advice on what information about themselves they should or should not give out when signing up to websites.

All pupils attending the Safer Internet Day Talks in Schools will be given a Family E-Safety pack to bring home. Produced by digital communications provider UPC and Webwise, this pack contains a Parents' Guide, games and stickers. It aims to give parents a tool that they can use to help them discuss the key online safety topics in a fun and informative way and ultimately help them to agree rules for internet use in their home.

As an additional resource for parents and children alike, **Webwise has developed a presence on Facebook to provide a wealth of information, designed to give parents the skills and confidence to communicate with their children on their internet use.** It also offers videos from parenting experts and interactive cartoons for children that teach the golden rules for using the web www.facebook.com/webwise.

The Safer Internet Talks In Schools programme will be visiting schools nationwide including schools in Dublin, Dundalk, Limerick and Tipperary

For further information, log onto www.facebook.com/webwise

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About Safer Internet Day:

Safer Internet Day is supported by the European Union through Safer Internet Programme, organised in Ireland by the National Centre for Technology in Education (NCTE) and promoted through Webwise, the Internet Safety initiative of the NCTE.

About NCTE:

The NCTE, established under the aegis of the Department of Education and Science, has a wide remit in the area of information and communications technology (ICT) and education, extending beyond the use of ICT in schools to cover all educational ICT issues. Its main initial tasks are to manage the implementation of the ICT in Schools programme as set out by the DES, to develop ICT policy proposals and to provide policy advice to the Department of Education and Science

www.ncte.ie

About Webwise:

Webwise is the Internet Safety initiative of the NCTE. Webwise provides information and resources in four specific areas, surfing, chatting, sharing and gaming to teachers, parents and students to help ensure that children and young people have positive and safe on-line experiences.

www.webwise.ie

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