

PRESS RELEASE

From: Youth Commission for Guernsey and Alderney

Topic: Online Safety Education in partnership with Airtel-Vodafone

Youth Commission for Guernsey and Alderney announces internet safety partnership with Airtel-Vodafone

The Youth Commission for Guernsey and Alderney has launched a new partnership with Airtel-Vodafone to provide online safety lessons in schools and training for professionals and parents.

Airtel-Vodafone is providing funding to the Youth Commission to enable the work to take place.

The partnership will see the delivery of in-school sessions focusing on the responsible use of technology and online safety to 2,500 11-18 year olds, with each primary school also receiving an annual assembly.

The sessions, which will start this term, include online safety tips for internet browsing, social networking platforms and online gaming for different devices including computers, smartphones and tablets. At the end of the educational sessions it is hoped that young people will have a better understanding of the potential dangers of being online and how to mitigate them which will help to build their confidence, ensuring they have the knowledge to benefit from all the internet has to offer while staying safe.

A large part of the programme will focus on educating young people about how the information they upload can be used and shared without their knowledge, highlighting the potential negative consequences and how to avoid them. A practical guide - Vodafone's Digital Parenting magazine, will be made available as a takeaway resource for parents and professionals.

Kerstin Neason, Youth Commission CEO, said: 'The potential for the internet to be a valuable and a fun resource for entertainment, making friends, keeping in touch and learning is huge for young people. But young people using the internet need to be aware of online threats - be it bullying, fraud or something more serious. We're grateful to be working with Airtel-Vodafone and are pleased to be able to draw on their experience and educational resource to spread awareness and build important online safety skills.'

Peter Zunino, head of marketing at Airtel-Vodafone said: 'This partnership further cements our long standing commitment to help keep Guernsey children safe online and builds on work we have already done around content filtering and providing access to educational resources such the Vodafone Digital Parenting Guide. We are looking forward to working with the Commission to help offer parents, teachers and children alike with the right technical and practical advice to empower their digital journey.'

Alun Williams, lifelong learning manager for States of Guernsey Education Services said: 'This partnership will enable us to support our children and young people, teaching them to be responsible digital citizens and help keep them safe in their digital world. Airtel-Vodafone has long supported the work of our online safety committee and I am pleased that their continued sponsorship will allow the Youth Commission team to visit schools and help instil the skills and confidence in children to help keep them safe online.'

If you would like more information about online safety there are helpful links available through Airtel-Vodafone's website: www.airtel-vodafone.com/protect

If you would like an information leaflet contact the Youth Commission on 01481756099.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

- Logos attached
- Interview contact – Kerstin Neason, Youth Commission CEO: KerstinN@gcfe.net – 07781 121 048, Peter Zunino, Head of Marketing, Airtel-Vodafone 07700 734445

About the Youth Commission for Guernsey and Alderney:

The Youth Commission is an independent charity responsible for the delivery and co-ordination of all forms of youth and support work in the Bailiwick. We work with children and young people under the age of 25, although we concentrate particularly on those aged 11-18.

Youth work is an educational process - engaging with young people based on their experiences, beliefs and aspirations. It extends and deepens a young person's understanding of themselves, their community and the world in which they live, supporting them to bring about positive changes. A youth worker needs energy, patience and creativity to build positive relationships with young people based on mutual respect.

Youth work is building young people's self-awareness and self-confidence. By offering challenging new experiences and learning opportunities, young people gain knowledge, develop new skills, build their capacity to consider risks, make informed decisions and take responsibility for those decisions. One of the most important aspects of youth work is giving young people a voice in the decision-making which affects their lives – we must listen to what they have to say, and offer them a platform from which to express, so that young people feel included and valued within our community.

The Youth Commission has seven centres across the Bailiwick; at the Butes in Alderney, Space on the Bridge, The Caves in town, North in Vale, Styx in St Peters, Les Ozouets Campus in St Peter Port; and delivers an Outreach service 5 days a week, The Prince's Trust, DofE, Project Weeks and a Youth Forum. The Youth Commission is also closely affiliated with The HUB, and adopts a multi-agency approach towards service provision. All sites and projects are supervised by trained and suitably qualified youth staff. Each of the centres hosts several clubs or services and activities aimed at fulfilling our mission 'to provide safe, supportive environments where young people can experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, develop skills and build confidence'.

About Airtel-Vodafone

Airtel-Vodafone is a partnership between two of the world's leading telecoms companies that have come together to provide the Channel Islands best value network.

Airtel: one of the fastest-growing mobile companies in the world, operating in over 20 countries in Africa and Asia. Airtel is rated as the world's 3rd largest mobile operator by subscribers

Vodafone Group: the largest mobile community in the world, operating in more than 60 countries with more than 400 million customers worldwide.

Airtel-Vodafone brings the combined expertise of these two world-class mobile phone companies to the Channel Islands, giving Islanders the opportunity to benefit from great value mobile communications backed up by a truly global network.

Airtel-Vodafone blanket blocks all illegal websites on its network as defined by the Internet Watch Foundation and also offers a free opt in service, Airtel-Vodafone Protect, which block sites of adult content.