

Children, ICT & E-Safety

Information for parents and carers

The purpose of this guide

Children of today are increasingly using Information & Communication Technology (ICT) in schools and in the home. This guide explains:

- How using ICT in the home can help children to learn.
- How children can use the Internet safely at home.
- Where to access further information.



Using the Internet safely at home

Whilst many Internet Service Providers offer filtering systems to help you safeguard your child at home, it remains surprisingly easy for children to access inappropriate material including unsuitable texts, pictures and movies.

Parents are advised to set the security levels within Internet Explorer and other browsers with this in mind. Locating the computer in a family area, not a bedroom, will enable you to supervise children as they use the Internet. However, don't deny your child the opportunity to learn from the wide variety of material and games available on the Internet. Instead set some simple rules for keeping them safe and make sure they understand their importance.

For further information, go to:

CEOP: www.ceop.gov.uk

Think U Know: www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Childnet: www.childnet-int.org

Simple rules for keeping your child safe

To keep your child safe, they should:

- ask permission before using the Internet
- only use websites you have chosen together or a child friendly search engine
- only email people they know, (why not consider setting up an address book?)
- ask permission before opening an email sent by someone they don't know
- do not use Internet chat rooms
- do not use their real name when using games on the Internet, (create a nick name)
- never give out a home address, phone or mobile number
- never tell someone they don't know where they go to school
- never arrange to meet someone they have 'met' on the Internet
- only use a webcam with people they know
- tell you immediately if they see anything they are unhappy with.

Using these rules

Go through these rules with your child and pin them up near to the computer. It is also a good idea to regularly check the Internet sites your child is visiting e.g. by clicking on History and Favourites. Please reassure your child that you want to keep them safe rather than take Internet access away from them.