

Children, ICT & e-Safety



The Purpose of this guide

Children of today are increasingly using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in schools and in the home

This guide explains:

- How your children are using ICT in school
- How using ICT in the home can help your 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 Service Providers offer filtering systems and tools to help you safeguard your child at home, it remains surprisingly easy for children to access inappropriate material including unsuitable text, pictures and movies. Parents are advised to set the security levels within Internet Explorer or other browsers with this in mind. Locating the computer in a family area wherever possible (rather than in a bedroom) will help you to supervise your children as they use the internet. Also consider mobile phones and games consoles and other devices that can access the internet. However, don't deny them the opportunity to learn from and enjoy the wide variety of materials and games available to them online. Instead, discuss some simple rules with them for keeping them safe online and making sure they understand their importance.

Simple rules for keeping your children safe

To keep your child safe they should:

- Ask permission before using the internet and discuss what websites they intend to use
- Use only websites you have heard of or which you have chosen
- Only email or communicate with people they know (set up an address book)
- Ask permission before opening emails sent by someone else
- Do not use their real or full name when using gaming sites (create a nickname)
- Never give out personal information such as addresses, telephone numbers or those of friends and family
- Never arrange to meet someone they know from an online website without taking an adult and always meet in a public place even when doing so
- Never post any photos in school uniform under any circumstances
- Only use a webcam with people they know
- Tell you immediately if there is anything they are unhappy with or unsure about

Using these rules

Go through these rules with your children and pin them up near the computer. It is also a good idea to regularly check the internet your child visits by clicking on 'History' and 'Favourites'. Please reassure your children that you want to keep them safe rather than taking away their Internet access. Keep a dialogue and a relationship of mutual respect as far as the Internet is concerned.

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