Simple rules for keeping your child safe

To help 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
- Not use Internet chat rooms
- Not use their real name when using games on the Internet
- 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 us a webcam with people they know
- Tell you immediately if they see anything they are unhappy with

We only use the internet when an adult is with us.

We always ask if we get lost on the Internet.

We only use websites our parent/carer has chosen.

We can write polite and friendly emails to people we know.

We immediately close any webpage we don't like.

We never open e-mails sent by anyone we don't know

We never give out a home address or phone number.

Using these rules

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

Children, ICT & e-Safety

Information for parents and carers

The purpose of this guide

Children today are increasingly using Information & 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 children to learn.
- How children can use the Internet safely at home.
- Where to access further information.

How your child uses ICT at school

ICT in schools is taught as a subject in its own right and also supports children's learning in other subjects, including English and mathematics. Within ICT lessons children learn to use a wide range of ICT including:

- Drawing Programs and various other educational programmes
- Office programmes e.g. Word Processing to write stories, poems or letters
- Databases to record information, e.g. minibeasts
- Spreadsheets to create tables, charts and graphs
- Desktop Publishing to design posters, leaflets or cards
- Multimedia Presentations to present text, images and sound
- The Internet to find information and partake in educational activities
- Digital cameras/video recorders to record what they have achieved in class and to create movies and animations
- Controllable Robots to give instructions and make something happen
- Simulations to explore real and imaginary situations

How you can help your child at home

ICT is not just about using a computer. It also includes the use of controllable toys, digital cameras and everyday equipment such as a tape recorder or DVD player.

Children can be helped to develop their ICT skills at home by:

- Writing a letter to a relative
- Sending an email to a friend
- Drawing a picture using a standard paint package
- Using the internet to research a class topic
- Using interactive games; either by using a cd or via a child friendly website

Benefits of using ICT at home

We know that using ICT at home can help. Many studies have looked at the benefits of having access to a computer and/or the Internet at home.

- Improves children's ICT skills
- Offers them choice in what they learn and how they learn it
- Supports homework and revision
- Children with supportive and involved parents/carers improve their ICT skills
- Connects learning at school with learning at home
- Using ICT provides access to a wider and more flexible range of learning materials

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 accidentally access inappropriate material including unsuitable texts, pictures and movies. Parents are advised to set the security levels within Internet Explorer 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.

Some useful websites

Think U Know: www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Childnet: www.childnet-int.org

When searching the Internet we recommend you use one of the following child friendly search engines:

Ask Jeeves for kids: www.askforkids.com

Yahoo! Kids: www.kids.yahoo.com

Kidsclick: www.kidsclick.org

CBBC Search: www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/search