



Online Safety Awareness Guidance for Parents

- Parental control software is often available via your ISP so that you can manage and control your child's computer and internet activity. Mobile phone operators also offer free parental control software services to limit the kind of content your children can access through the mobile network.
- Parental control software doesn't replace the need for supervision and education when working on the internet.
- Computers for children should be used in a shared space where parents can see the screen, if this is not possible, regular checking is good practise.
- Take an interest in your children's internet use and discuss various issues relating to the internet.
- Be aware of the various age limits on games and social networking sites. These are there for a reason – they safeguard your children against inappropriate content.
- Have discussions about the care needed when their children meet online "friends". Reiterate the message about only talking to people they know. Echo the message from school and remind your children not to give out any personal details nor those of family and friends, even to people they know.
- Encourage your children to tell them you if anything online makes them feel uncomfortable.
- Make your child aware of the dangers of meeting someone they have only met online. Think stranger danger!
- Be confident that you are in control and that you have every right to check on your children's online activities as well as their mobile usage.
- Be mindful of the amount of screen time your children are exposed to.
- Although being online is fun, encourage offline activities. Socialising with friends and taking part in physical activities is important for developing social skills.

We take online safety seriously, to ensure the safety of young people around us. We have joined National Online Safety, so that parents can have free access to their app (available on Google Play and the app store to download) which provide quick guides, tips and courses so you can keep your children safe too and become more knowledgeable about what the latest trends are and what youngsters are accessing.

You can find out more about how children use social media, the apps they use, the risks they face, how to use privacy settings, and advice and tips about how to talk to children about online safety at

The UK Safer Internet Centre website

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk>

CEOP's Thinkuknow website

<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

<http://www.thinkyouknow.co.uk/parents>

Internet Matters

<http://www.internetmatters.org>

Childnet

<http://www.childnet.com/sns>

NSPCC

<http://www.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety>

Parent Zone

<http://www.parentzone.org.uk>

Ask About Games (where families make sense of video games)

<http://www.askaboutgames.com>

As always, if you have any concerns about online safety and you are unsure where to get advice, please feel free to ask us.

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