

Keeping Children Safe Using Technology

How to minimise the risks for your children online

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How can children get online?

- ▶ PC
- ▶ Laptops
- ▶ Tablets (ipads, etc)
- ▶ Games, consoles (Wii, Playstation, Xbox)
- ▶ iPods
- ▶ Smartphones
- ▶ Smart TV/Blu-ray players
- ▶ Watches

What could they be doing online?

- ▶ Playing games
- ▶ Talking to people (Skype/Facetime)
- ▶ Sharing Information
- ▶ Sending messages
- ▶ Social networking
- ▶ Making friends
- ▶ Purchasing goods/apps/services
- ▶ Watching clips
- ▶ Listening to music

Risks children face online

- ▶ Cyber-bullying
- ▶ Accessing inappropriate websites
- ▶ Losing control over the images and videos they post
- ▶ Viruses
- ▶ Hacking of files
- ▶ Grooming
- ▶ Fines for using photos/images without permission
- ▶ Slander or contempt of court for reposting tweets and posts

What is cyber bullying?

- ▶ Unpleasant things being said to a child.
- ▶ Unpleasant things being said about a child.
- ▶ This could be done on social media, using a smartphone and using different apps.

What can we do at school?

- ▶ Explain how this can happen and how it can make people feel.
- ▶ Ensure they know who they can talk to at school.

What can you do at home?

- ▶ Monitor the apps children purchase.
- ▶ Monitor use of devices and where they are used.
- ▶ Support and encourage positive communication.

Accessing Inappropriate Websites

- ▶ Using google - sometimes keywords can trigger responses children weren't searching for.
- ▶ Suggested links and clips next to the one your child is viewing on YouTube could be inappropriate.

What can we do at school?

- ▶ Apply appropriate filtering systems.
- ▶ Model how to search safely online www.safesearchkids.com/google (safe search engine)
- ▶ What to do if something comes on our screen that is inappropriate.

What can you do at home?

- ▶ Filtering/Parental control - content to restrict access to particular sites, such as pornographic websites.
- ▶ Time limits - restrict the amount of time your child can be online, or set periods of time where your child can access certain sites.

Losing control over the images they post

- ▶ Once an image is posted online it becomes public.
- ▶ Once an image is text to someone it is no longer yours.

What can we do at school?

- ▶ Educate children of risks.
- ▶ Promote safe behaviour and habits.

What can you do at home?

- ▶ Educate children of the risks.
- ▶ Promote safe behaviour and habits.
- ▶ Monitor use of devices.

What is grooming?

- ▶ Adults befriending children, targeting their weaknesses and tricking them into feeling safe and valued.
- ▶ Adults pretending to be children.
- ▶ Adults manipulating young children once they have trust.

What can we do at school?

- ▶ Educate children of the issue and how these things happen.
- ▶ Educate children about safe practice online and using devices.
- ▶ Make them aware of resources and services that help.

What can you do at home?

- ▶ Educate children of the issue and how these things can happen.
- ▶ Monitor use of devices.
- ▶ Make them aware of resources and services that can help.

Reach an agreement

A good way to set boundaries with your child about what they can and can't do online is to set up an agreement with them.

Here are some examples you might want to discuss:

- ▶ Limits on the amount of time your child spends online, or playing computer games.
- ▶ Having regular screen breaks - at least five minutes every 45-60 minutes.
- ▶ Not sharing any pictures they wouldn't be happy to share with you.
- ▶ Not giving out personal details, such as phone numbers, address, school etc. without parents knowledge.
- ▶ Coming to you if they are concerned about anything or knowing where to go.
- ▶ Show them how to use technology safely - passwords etc.

What we are doing in school

- ▶ Members of staff have been trained to understand e-safety and its implications
- ▶ We follow a progressive e-safety curriculum
- ▶ We lead assemblies to address e-safety needs
- ▶ School policy has been developed
- ▶ A guidance sheet for adults in schools has been created so we all know what to do if a situation arises.

The importance of children watching DVDs or playing video games that are of the correct age.

- ▶ In moderation, playing age-appropriate games can be enjoyable and healthy. Some video games may promote learning, problem solving and help with the development of fine motor skills and coordination. However, there are concerns about the effect of video games on young people who play videogames excessively.
- ▶ Studies of children exposed to violent media have shown that they may become numb to violence, imitate the violence, and show more aggressive behaviour. Younger children and those with emotional, behavioural or learning problems may be more influenced by violent images.

Our Pact is a parental control app - we highly recommend it!

► https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wp0OPt2_hf0

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_o8auwnJtqE

We are going to finish by watching a short clip

What next?

- ▶ Talk to your child about keeping safe.
- ▶ Use technology together.
- ▶ Encourage and model safe behaviours.

Thank you for your time!

Any questions?



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