

What's the best way to ensure that your child is safe on the Internet?

Some of the material available online is clearly not suitable for children and there are many problems that can arise.

It is very easy to stumble across (or search for) inappropriate content online.

Advice and Guidance for Parents/Carers

Ground Rules:

- Establish how the Internet will be used in your house.
- Discuss what should be kept private online.
- Know what your child is doing online much like you would offline.
- For younger children, use a child friendly search engines eg [CBBCsearch](#), [askjeevesforkids](#), [yahooligans](#).
- Only play games with appropriate PEGI (Pan-European Game Information) label indicating age suitability – 3, 7, 12, 16 and 18.

Online Safety:

- Install anti-virus software, firewalls and secure your Internet connections

Remember that tools are not always 100% effective and sometimes things can get past them!

- Set up search filters on your computer. Getnetwise provides video tutorials on changing safety settings & safety tools <http://www.getnetwise.org/>.
- Microsoft free software for filters & parental controls: <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windowsvista/Protecting-your-kids-with-Family-Safety>
- Restrict searches to UK only sites – only 0.4% sites found containing illegal material were hosted in the UK!
- Help your children understand why they should never give out their personal details or photos to online friends. Remind them that if they publish a photo or video online - anyone can change it or share it.
- The age limit to create a profile on Bebo and Facebook is 13. However, if they do have a profile make sure they have set the Privacy settings.

Location:

- Ideally locate the computer/laptop in a Family room and do not allow web-cams to be used without your consent and always in a family room.
- Consider the other devices in your home that allow Internet access such as Mobile Phones and Games Consoles.

Dialogue:

- Talk to your child - Share the experience with them and ask them to show you how they use technology.
- Be open and encourage them to talk to you.
- If your child reports a problem make sure you support them, report it or seek advice.

Links to e-safety information for parents and carers

1. Directgov:

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/Yourchildshealthandsafety/Internetsafety/>

2. BBC online safety: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/onlinesafety/>

3. Wise Kids: http://www.wisekids.org.uk/parents_internetsafetyguidelines.htm

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

5. Childnet: <http://www.childnet.com/>

6. Digizen: digital citizens <http://www.digizen.org.uk/>

Reporting a Problem

If a child /young person is in immediate danger or needs urgent help call 999 or contact the local police.

- CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection centre),

www.ceop.gov.uk is the UK law enforcement agency for tackling online child abuse..

Internet Watch Foundation –the UK hotline for reporting illegal online contents:

- O2 - 08705214000
- Vodafone - call customer services 08700700191 (191 from a Vodafone phone)
- Orange - 07973 100150.
- T-Mobile - customer services on 150 or on 0845 412 5000 from a landline.