

Simple rules for keeping your child safe

To keep your child safe they should:

- ask permission before using the Internet and discuss what websites they are using;
- only use websites you have chosen together or a child friendly search engine;
- ask permission before opening an email sent by someone they don't know;
- not use their real name when using games or websites on the Internet (create a nick name);
- never give out any personal information about themselves, friends or family online including: home address, phone or mobile number;
- never arrange to meet someone they have 'met' on the Internet without talking to an adult first; always take an adult and meet in a public place;
- never tell someone they don't know where they go to school or post any pictures of themselves in school uniform;
- only use a webcam with people they know;
- tell you immediately if they see anything they are unhappy with.

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

Ask Jeeves for kids: www.askkids.com

Yahoo! Kids: www.kids.yahoo.com

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

Useful contacts:

Thinkuknow.co.uk

[Internet Watch Foundation \(iwf.org.uk\)](http://Internet Watch Foundation (iwf.org.uk))

GetSafeOnline.org



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**Children, ICT &
e-safety**

Information for Parents

The purpose of this guide:

Children of 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.



How your child uses ICT at school

Word Processing to write stories, poems or letters;

Databases to record information, e.g. about mini-beasts;

Spreadsheets to create tables, charts and graphs;

Desktop Publishing to design posters, leaflets or cards;

Multimedia Presentation to present text, pictures, sound and video;

Drawing Programs to create pictures and designs;

Internet and CD-ROMs to find information;

Email to contact children and teachers in another school;

Digital Cameras to record what they have done in class or on a visit;

Electronic Sensors to record changes in light, sound and temperature;

Controllable Robots to give instructions and make something happen;

Simulations to explore real and imaginary situations;

Website Publishing to present ideas over the Internet (*School website*);

Video Conferencing to share ideas or ask an expert.

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 mobile phone 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 on screen;
- using the Internet to research a class topic;
- planning a route with a controllable toy;
- using interactive games.

A selection of companies offer appropriate software for use at home.



Using the Internet safely at home

Whilst many Internet 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 where possible, not a bedroom will enable you to supervise your son or daughter 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 material and games available on the Internet. Instead discuss with them some simple rules for keeping safe online and making sure they understand their importance.