

E-SAFETY for Parents

Do you know if your child is playing safe on the internet?



The internet is such an integral part of children's lives these days. It opens up so many educational and social opportunities, giving them access to, quite literally, a world of information and experiences.

Whether on a computer at school, a laptop at home, a games console or mobile phone, children and young people are increasingly accessing the internet whenever they can and wherever they are.

As you would protect your child in the real world, you will want to make sure that they are safe whatever they are doing. Like learning to cross the road, online safety skills are skills for life. If your child understands the risks and can make sensible and informed choices online, they can get the most from the internet and stay safe whilst doing so – particularly from those people who might seek them out to harm them.

So, how can you protect your child online?

The answer is simple. If you understand the internet and understand what the risks are, there are a number of things you can do that will make your child safer online...

Click on the web site link below and choose the Parent ? Carer? Area to find out more

www.thinkuknow.co.uk



If you receive a message, or suspect that someone is not who they say they are, report it and it will be checked out. Click on the button you see here, that you can find on most social networking/chat sites, or contact them on their website.

SCHOOL INTERNET POLICY

The school has extensive tools to stop pupils from looking at websites that are unsuitable. Chat is not allowed and neither is access to web mail (hot mail). With a filtering system monitored by both the school and Rhondda Cynon Taff, it ensures that the pupils can surf safely within the school environment.

Our Securus software also indicates when a pupil has tried to access unsuitable material or written words that we associate with bullying, racism and other unacceptable areas on the computer. We can

then take steps to ensure that the pupil is reprimanded and parents /carers will be informed.



E-safety for pupils

Cyber bullying

By using technology like mobiles or the internet, this type of bullying can affect someone not just at school, but at home as well. Because it takes place in the virtual world, it has a 24/7 nature and can make someone feel upset or threatened in their own home.

It can sometimes be hard to identify who the cyberbully is because they could block their number or post things on a website anonymously. The nature of this type of bullying means it can have a large audience, many of whom may not even realise they are being bullies.

A positive thing about this kind of bullying is that it can be evidenced. With normal bullying, it can be one person's word against another's, but with cyberbullying you can save texts or print our emails / IM's / WebPages. This can be used as proof to catch the bully and stop them upsetting someone; this could be you or a friend.

http://www.thinkyouknow.co.uk/11_16/control/cyberbullying/

Social Networking:

Social Networking areas are basically websites with applications which help connect friends using different tools like blogs, profiles, internal email systems and photos.

Popular social networking sites include Bebo, Myspace and Facebook. Sites like these have become really popular among people of all ages and quite often people have a number of profiles on different sites.

So, how do you use them?

Your profile

Firstly, you sign up and create your own profile or 'space'. Often, these contain standard sections like, 'About Me' and 'Who I'd Like to Meet.' There are usually areas where you can write things like favourite Music, Films, Sports, Scared Of and Happiest When. You can add specific personal details like physical appearance, and which school you go to. You can also

have your own blog where you write daily thoughts or include articles you find interesting.

Customising your profile

A big part of customising your profile can be uploading images or pictures onto your site. One of your pictures can be chosen as the "default image" and this will be seen on your profile's main page. It will also appear next to your user-name on comments, messages, etc.

Most sites have a 'count' of how many friends you have and a link to a page which lists all of the user's friends. Often you can click on a friend's name and be taken straight to their profile; this depends how they have set their privacy settings.

You can usually add music to your profile, either by visiting an artist's page and choosing a song from their music player, or by using a customised music player or by an embedded media file. There is often also an option to upload videos as well – including music videos, videos uploaded from other sites such as Youtube or personally recorded films.

Some social networking sites have an instant messenger facility, where you can chat to friends who you have added to your contact list.

Creating your own profile on one of these sites often means you end up publishing a lot of personal information. To make sure you keep yours safe

Check out the link below for more information

http://www.thinkyounow.co.uk/11_16

Useful Websites

www.stoptextbully.com

www.outofyourhands.com

www.phonebrain.org.uk

www.websafecrackerz.com

www.gridclub.com/teachers/t_internet_safety.html

www.cybersmartkids.com.au

www.cybernetrix.com.au
