



A Guide to Safer Internet Use



Please read through the following tips with your child

Internet Safety



ZIP IT

Avoid postings that could enable a stranger to locate you. That includes:-

- your last name
- the name of your school
- sports teams
- the town you live in
- where you hang out
- don't post photos with anybody wearing the schools uniform.

Keep all your personal information to yourself.

DON'T LET IT SLIP OUT BY MISTAKE.



Remember

To use a nickname when you're in chat rooms or playing online games as what you type may be seen by strangers. Use privacy settings on your social networking page and protect your friends too. Name, address, school, date of birth, private e-mail and password... Zip it!



BLOCK IT

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If you allow comments on your profile or blog, check them often. Don't respond to mean or embarrassing comments. Delete them and, if possible, block offensive people from commenting further if you receive unwanted or insulting texts, e-mails, messages or pictures, don't pass them on. Remember that you can save abusive messages as evidence. Use filters to block and avoid unwanted websites and don't open suspect e-mails, messages or attachments – you may catch a virus!



FLAG IT

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Don't put up with bullies. Tell a trusted friend or adult if you are being targeted – don't reply. It's hard to escape from cyber-bullying so flag it up. And if someone asks to meet up alone – tell an adult you trust. You may think you know who you're talking to but you often don't.

Think about it...

What's uploaded to the Net can be downloaded by anyone and passed around or posted online pretty much forever.

Avoid posting photos that allow people to identify you (for example, when they are searching for your school).

Before uploading a photo, think about how you would feel if it were seen by a parent/guardian, tutor or future employer.



Don't do it...

Don't get together with someone you "meet" in a profile or blog.



Don't lie about it...

Membership rules are there to protect people. If you are too young to sign up, do not attempt to lie about your age. Talk with your parents about alternative sites that may be appropriate for you.



"Friends" list...

Check to see if your service has a "friends" list that allows you to control who can visit your profile or blog. If so, allow only people you know and trust. If you don't use privacy features, anyone can see your information, including people with bad intentions.





Look out for the “Report Abuse” button and use it!



ZIP IT

Keep your personal stuff private and think about what you say and do online.



BLOCK IT

Block people who send nasty messages and don't open unknown links and attachments.



FLAG IT

Flag up with someone you trust if anything upsets you or if someone asks to meet you offline.

For further information on e-safety try:

www.direct.gov.uk/clickcleverclicksafe

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

www.childline.org.uk