

ICT and e-safety

A parents guide

Introduction

Benefits of ICT at home

Many studies have looked at the benefits of having access to a computer and/or the Internet at home.

Here are some of the key findings:

- *used effectively, ICT can improve children's achievement
- *using ICT at home and at school develops skills for life
- *children with supportive and involved parents and carers do better at school
- *children enjoy using ICT
- *using ICT provides access to a wider and more flexible range of learning materials (e-mail to friends, drawing pictures on screen, research, interactive games etc).

Statistics (Ofcom 2011/12)...

- * 93% of children use a computer and/or phone
- * Over one in three 3-4 year olds use the internet
- * 50% children aged 5-7 have a games console in their bedroom, rising to 70% of those aged 8-15. 20% of children aged 8-11 play against others online.
- * Just over 33% of those aged 8-11 in the UK visit sites like YouTube
- * There are over 2.7 billion searches on Google each month
- * The number of text messages sent every day exceeds the total population of the planet

... and more!

- * Younger children are increasingly using social networking sites as evidenced by the rise of usage by those aged 5–7 in the UK from 7% in 2009 to 23% in 2010. This is largely driven by sites like Club Penguin and Moshi Monsters rather than age-restricted sites like Facebook.
- * However, Facebook remains enormously popular (96% of those aged 8–15 with an active social networking site profile use Facebook) and there are a significant number of underage users accessing sites like Facebook which have a **minimum user age of 13**.
- * 28% of those aged 9–10 have an SNS profile compared to 59% of those aged 11–12.

Why teach e-safety ?



With increasing access to the internet in many ways, it is important that we work together to keep the children safe.



Ways of internet contact

- * E-mailing
- * Instant messaging
- * Webcam
- * Chat rooms
(such as: Yahoo! chat, Facebook, Skype, AOL instant messenger, MSN messenger, Google chat, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, etc.)

Gaming

The internet has changed the way that young people play games. Games can be played against anyone in the world, at any time and for as long as you want.

In the past, computer games were something you played against the computer, or friends that came round to your house. They were also something that you 'completed' and then moved onto the next one.

Online, you can adventure in complex worlds, create characters, and meet and make friends to fight battles and go on journeys together...

Almost anything that connects to the internet will allow you to play these games and allow contact with unknown players – desktop computers, laptops, consoles, like Playstation or Xbox, or even mobile phones.

Mobile Phones

Lots of the new phones can access the internet just like any computer.



How we use computers in school.

Word Processing *to write stories, poems or letters*

Databases *to record information, e.g. minibests*

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*

What do we teach at school ?

Throughout school, the pupils are taught about e-safety.

This is graduated according to age and not a one-off. We keep re-visiting in the curriculum, at various times, how to stay safe online and what to do if they see anything unsuitable: 'Hector Protector'

Our computers are protected by the Shropshire LA 'firewall' but not set at the highest level – children are taught to manage risk.



What do we teach at school ?

Here is an example of Key Stage 1 material:

- * http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/5_7/hectorsworld/Episode1



And Key Stage 2 material :

- * http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/8_10/cybercafe/Cyber-Cafe-Base/



What else do we teach?

- * Children are taught that not everything you read/see on the internet is correct/true.
- * **‘Think Before You Click’:**
 - Who wrote the materials on this site?
 - Is it likely to be accurate or can it be altered by anyone?
 - If others click on it, can I be sure they are who they say they are???

How can you support at home ?

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.
- only email people they know (why not consider setting up an address book?).
- 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.

How can you support this at home ?

Using these rules:

- * Go through these rules with your child and pin them up near to the computer.
- * By keeping the computer in a family area, not a bedroom, this will enable you to supervise children as they use the Internet.
- * It is also a good idea to regularly check the Internet sites your child is visiting e.g. by clicking the 'History' and 'Favourites.'
- * Remind them that any photos they put on the internet e.g 'Instagram', can sometimes be seen by anyone. Only post a photo if you would also be happy for it to be on the front page of a newspaper!
- * Please reassure your child that you want to keep them safe rather than taking internet access away from them.

Further information

- * Glossary of technical terms!
- * Google 'Safesearch'
- * <http://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/security/online-privacy/xbox.aspx>
- * www.ergonomics4kids.com

And finally

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

Together we can keep them safe !