

Strangers on the internet



Using the internet together



Helping to keep your child safe online



Parents often ask us for help with keeping their children safe online. To help, we have written this guide for you and your child.

Supervising your child's access to the internet



Bullying on social networks



Children are often more proficient at using electronic devices than their parents. However, we need to make sure that our children are using the internet safely and that we are doing all we can to protect them from potential risks. Read through this leaflet with your child, and talk about the issues raised. Please let us know if you need any further information or help.

Strangers on the internet



People on the internet may not be who they say they are. Talk to your child about this and tell them to treat people that they meet on the internet the same way that they would treat a stranger. Tell them not to accept friend requests from anyone that they do not know. Your child should not give out any personal information such as their address or phone numbers. And they should not arrange to meet anyone without you being present.

Sabi has got a friend request. George looks like a nice person but she does not know him. She refuses his friend request and lets her mum know.



Supervising your child's access to the internet

Parents need to be aware of what their children are looking at on the internet. Any device that your child can access should have parental controls on it so you can ensure that they are only looking at content which is safe and appropriate for them. You should also check their viewing history regularly. Make sure that any apps they are using are age appropriate too. Only allow them to access social media when they are old enough. It is also a good idea to have devices in a busy part of the house so you can see what they are doing.



Michael is playing an online game. His dad has checked the content and age restrictions and he knows it is OK for Michael to play. Dad thinks he might like a go too if Michael shows him what to do.



Bullying on social networks



Sometimes children can say unkind things to each other on social networks, or encourage children to do or say things that they would not do normally. If a child is being bullied in this way, it can make them feel very unhappy and as if their own home is not a safe space. Talk to your child about this, and encourage them to tell you if this is happening. Reassure them that you will be able to sort it out, with help from the team here at school.

Someone has sent an unkind message to Jamal. He tells his teacher straight away. She knows exactly what to do and tells him that it will be OK, and it will be stopped.



Protecting your devices

Make sure that all devices in your household have virus protection. Talk to your child about the risks of opening emails with attachments. Tell them to let you know before they open any attachments as they may contain viruses which can damage your devices.



Sabi is looking at her emails. She notices an email with an attachment. She is going to let her dad know before she opens it.





What goes online may stay online **forever**

Anything that is shared online may stay on there forever, and you may have no control about how widely it is shared. Talk to your child about this so that they take care about any images that they may upload or any opinions that they may express. Explain that once something goes online, it can go anywhere, and may stay there forever.

Michael's parents have done an experiment with their friends so he can see how widely an image is shared. He is very surprised to see how many people are able to see this photo.



Using the internet together

Remember that the internet is a fantastic resource. You and your child can have fun exploring it and learning new things together.

Jamal is looking at some information for his school project with his mum. He really enjoys looking at the internet with his mum because she always knows the best websites to go to. They are both interested in whales and have found a brilliant website which they enjoy looking at together.



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