

Make sure your children are safe online!



When children use phones, consoles, computers or tablets many parents assume that all children are experts in their use. Children are usually very competent users of technology, but they can also be quite naive about how they can be misused. Play alongside your children and take an interest in the games that they play. You are then in a position to help them, and help lay down some boundaries about what is OK and what is risky behaviour.

New Games Consoles

It is a good idea to set them up before you give them to your child, and set the parental controls before the children use them!

Usernames

Encourage children to use nick names that do not reveal their identity to strangers. Do they know that online friends are not the same as school friends?

Images and Webcams

Remind your children to think very carefully about any pictures they put on site, or any video they share. It is very easy for a picture to be copied and spread all over the internet. Talk to your children about sharing pictures of friends or of themselves can be dangerous.

Nothing online is really private and nothing can be deleted once it has been shared.

Do your children have online friends?

Do you know who they are? If they chat online it is much safer if they are in their living room not their bedroom. Talk to them about their virtual friends on sites such as Moshi Monsters and Club Penguin.

Mobile Phones

Smart phones have become very desirable, try to encourage your youngsters to use with care so that they do not become victims. Make sure security settings are age appropriate.

New Computers

It is a good idea to have different users for younger members of the family so that it is harder for them to accidentally install malware which will damage the computer and possibly steal your details. It is usually easier to do this on a new computer

SMART rules for Children

Safe - Don't give out personal information.

Meeting - Virtual friends are really only strangers.

Accept - Don't accept contacts from people you don't know.

Reliable - Not all websites are reliable - don't believe everything you see.

Tell - If you feel worried about anything then talk to an adult.

What is your child's digital footprint (online pictures)? It will still be there when they are your age! Remind them to think carefully before sending images or videos - you can't always undo!!

Would you like to know more? Let us know and we can run some training for parents.