

e-safety

How to keep safe online

The internet and online tools are great for research, planning and communicating. Usually things go well but you should be aware of the risks and how to act safely and responsibly. Schools should have an 'Acceptable Use Policy' and you should be familiar with it. At home you may be exposed to more risks – have you talked to your parent/carer about the issues below?



It's best not to give out your personal details to online friends; you never know who might see it. Personal stuff includes your real name, your email address, your age, your phone number, where you live, your school and whether you are a boy or girl.



Think before you post something online or send an e-mail; remember absolutely anyone can read it and it can be forwarded or copied to anyone. If you wouldn't want your parent/carer to read it or see it... don't post it.



If you publish a picture or video online – anyone can change it or share it.



SPAM / Junk email & texts: don't believe it, reply to it or use it.



It's not a good idea to open files that are from people you don't know. You won't know what they contain – it could be a virus, or an inappropriate image or film.



Remember, some people lie online. It's better to keep online mates online. Don't meet up with any strangers without an adult you trust.



It's never too late to tell someone if something makes you feel uncomfortable. Tell a parent or teacher then report it online to the owner of the website or there are people who can help.



Before you can join a chatroom, get a new email address, shop online or do other things on the internet, you will usually need to sign up and give out some personal info like your name, address and telephone number. BEFORE you do this, ask your parent/carer or teacher if that is OK.



Remember, every photo, video, piece of music and line of text was created by someone. Most of this will not be freely available for you to use or copy. You ALWAYS need permission to use other people's stuff. It is safest to create your own.

For more information visit:
www.wmnet.org.uk