

e-Safety – An Overview

e-Safety

The world of the internet is a fantastic resource with huge benefits for learning, education, socialisation and developing special interests. But it can also expose children and young people to the risk of potential harm and exploitation.

Images or videos, using social media sites, playing games, phone calls or messages – can all be areas of concern.

There are lots of things parents and carers can do to minimise these risks and manage situations if a child or young person does see something that upsets them or puts them at risk of harm.

e-Safety forms part of our Safeguarding policy. Safeguarding and protecting students is at the centre of everything we do. We aim to make sure each child and young person maintains:

- Safety, Health, Quality of Life, Dignity and Respect

Tips for Using the Internet Safely at Home

Install Internet Filters - Set the security levels on your browser or on specific devices. This limits access to inappropriate material, images etc. There is lots of information on-line about how to do this.

Locate Computers in Family Rooms – With the screen facing into the room - this is one of the best ways to ensure content is appropriate.

Install Child-Friendly Browsers – These auto-filter the results from web searches and remove adult content.

Protect Against Viruses – Viruses are small pieces of software that can damage your computer or device. Install anti-virus software. Only open attachments from reliable sources.

Install Parental Guidance Locks – On browsers and video playback sites to lock adult content and prevent viewing by using a pin code.

Prevent Postural Problems – Set up your computer area in a way that ensures your child/young person is in a comfortable seated position.

Preparation - Establish ground rules with your child if possible, regarding the amount of time your child is allowed to use a device etc. Discuss privacy and what is appropriate personal information to share on-line. It's a good idea to set up a nick name and avatar or cartoon instead of a photo to limit the amount of personal information that is shared.

Benefits of Information Technology

Children and young people are using IT more and more as resources for education, learning, socialisation and developing special interests.

For children and young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN) these benefits can be huge – supporting:

- social interaction
- motor skills
- life skills
- independence
- interests
- comprehension
- access to support networks
- access to information and resources

Potential Risks

Cyber-bullying - If you suspect your child is a victim of on-line bullying make sure you keep evidence, report it to the School/College, your service provider or the police.

Anti-social Behaviour and Criminal Activity – Children and young people are at risk from being influenced by others and may not have the capacity to make judgements about appropriate behaviour. There is also the potential to accidentally spend money on-line from adverts, subscriptions etc. You can set up Guest Services (usually in the Settings menus) and enable restrictions to accounts using passwords or pin codes.

Exposure to inappropriate content – Make sure your child knows to come to you or a responsible adult if they see something on the internet that upsets them or makes them feel uncomfortable, or if someone they have met on-line asks to meet them in person.

Grooming – This describes people who gain the trust of children, or adults, with the aim of causing sexual harm. Be careful not to give out any personal information and be aware adults may hide their identity in order to befriend children.

Further Help and Advice

There are lots of websites where you can get further information and advice. Our website has a number of links you may find helpful
www.seashelltrust.org.uk/school/curriculum/e-safety

Child-Friendly Browsers
<http://kids.yahoo.com>
www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/search
www.askkids.com

If you would like any additional help please contact us at Seashell Trust:

0161 610 0100 or email sarah.keddy@seashelltrust.org.uk or debbie.phelan@seashelltrust.org.uk (School)
0161 610 0100 or email matt.daly@seashelltrust.org.uk (College)