

## Developing Internet 'skills'

Swimming pools can be dangerous places, so we teach children to swim. Crossing the road can be dangerous, so we teach children road safety skills. We do not stop young people from swimming or crossing roads! So too, we must teach them how to be safe online so they can have fun, enjoy creative aspects and benefit from the learning opportunities. We must however still be aware of danger signs so we can deal with them.



Go through the useful rules with your child. Talk to them regularly about what they are doing. Build a relationship of mutual respect as far as the Internet is concerned.

## Using the Internet safely at home

**Some useful 'rules' to keep young people safe, discuss these with your child:**

- never give out any personal information about yourself, friends or family online including home address, phone or mobile number;
- never email your school name or a picture in school uniform (even to a friend);
- only use a webcam with people you really know 'off-line';
- don't use a webcam to do something that exposes you to danger or embarrassment;
- avoid going to websites you could not tell your parents about;
- only email people you know;
- be careful before opening an email attachment sent by someone you don't know – if in doubt do not open, and delete it;
- be careful about 'pop-ups' that say you have won something;
- don't use your real name when using games or websites on the Internet, (create a nick name);
- where you are old enough to use social networking sites (usually 13yrs+), know how to keep your profile private;
- use Internet chat rooms, online gamesharing spaces, instant messaging etc., with caution and know how to block and report unwanted users;
- be aware that comments you make on message boards, Blogs, Wikis etc., can be viewed by others;
- never arrange to meet anyone alone, always tell an adult first and meet in a public place;
- tell an adult you trust immediately if you encounter anything you are unhappy with;
- report concerns using the report abuse button which can be found on many sites.



This takes you to a site managed by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) [www.ceop.gov.uk](http://www.ceop.gov.uk). **Make sure your child knows how to report abuse online....**

## Possible danger signs you should look out for

If your child is:

- using the computer in an excessive way
- staying online through the night
- being secretive about what they are doing.

These signs may be perfectly innocent of course, so talk to your daughter or son.



## Danger signs your child should know about

- If a person tries various ways to get you to tell them your address or phone number
- If a person wants to keep their chats with you secret
- If a person shares information with you and tells you not to tell anyone else about it
- If a person emails you pictures which make you feel uncomfortable and which you would not want to show to anyone else
- If a person wants you to email them pictures of yourself or use a webcam in a way which makes you feel uncomfortable
- If a person tells you that you will get into trouble if you tell an adult what has been going on.

## Useful E-safety Websites for Parents

Child-net International: [www.childnet-int.org/kia/parents](http://www.childnet-int.org/kia/parents)

Think U Know: [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents)

MyGuide: [www.myguide.gov.uk](http://www.myguide.gov.uk)

Vodafone support: <http://parents.vodafone.com/>

[http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/5\\_7/hectorsworld/safetybutton.aspx](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/5_7/hectorsworld/safetybutton.aspx)

To download the Hectors world safety button. If something appears that the child doesn't like/finds alarming it blanks the screen while the child tells an adult.

Ask Jeeves: [www.askkids.com](http://www.askkids.com) or Yahoo! Kids: [www.kids.yahoo.com](http://www.kids.yahoo.com) are child friendly search engines which won't display adult images.

