

Children, ICT And eSafety

Information for parents and
carers



This purpose of this leaflet

Children are increasingly using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in schools—and in the home.

This leaflet explains

- How your children are using ICT in our school.
- How using ICT at home can help children to learn.
- How children can use the internet safely at home.
- Where to go if you would like more information

Benefits of using ICT at home

We know that using ICT at home can help because:

- ⇒ Used effectively, ICT can improve children's achievement.
- ⇒ Using ICT at home and at school develops skills for life.
- ⇒ Children with supportive and involved parents/carers do better at school.
- ⇒ Most importantly—children enjoy using ICT!
- ⇒ Using ICT provides access to a wider and more flexible range of learning materials.

But remember to encourage them to "Click Clever, Click Safe"



Keep your personal stuff private and think about what you say and do online.
Block people who send nasty messages and don't open unknown links and attachments.

Flag up with someone you trust if anything upsets you or if someone asks to meet you offline.

How learning at home with ICT benefits children

Home use of ICT by children:

- ⇒ Improves their ICT skills
- ⇒ Offers them choice in what they learn and how they learn it
- ⇒ Supports homework, topics and revision
- ⇒ Improve the presentation of their work
- ⇒ Connects learning at school with learning at home
- ⇒ Makes learning more fun
- ⇒ Increases parental involvement in their learning

All this can lead to better performance at school and an improved standard of work.

For further information go to:

www.parentscentre.gov.uk/usingthecomputersandtheinternet

How your child uses—or will as they move on through school use—ICT at school

ICT in school is sometimes taught as a subject in its own right and also to support children's learning in other subjects, including English and Maths. Over their time in school children learn to use a wide range of ICT including:

Word Processing to write stories, poems, reports or letters.

Educational interactive programs to support their learning.

Databases to record information, e.g. counting minibeasts.

Spreadsheets to create tables, charts and graphs.

Desktop publishing to design posters, leaflets, or cards.

Drawing programs to create pictures and designs.

Internet and CD-roms to find information.

Multimedia presentations to present text, pictures, sound and video.

Digital cameras to record images and video to record what they have done in class or on a visit.

Controllable robots and Electronic sensors to give instructions and make something happen.

Simulations to explore real and imaginary situations.

There are also opportunities for them to experience **Email, Website Publishing and, occasionally, Video Conferencing.**

How you can help your child at home

ICT is not just about using a computer. It also includes the use of controllable toys, digital cameras and everyday equipment such as a tape recorder or DVD player.

Children can be helped to develop their ICT skills at home by:

- ⇒ Writing a letter to a relative
- ⇒ Sending an email to a friend—maybe attaching a photograph they have taken too.
- ⇒ Drawing a picture on screen
- ⇒ Using the Internet to research a class topic
- ⇒ Planning a route with a controllable toy
- ⇒ Using interactive games

Think about social network sites and the possible risks

Using the Internet safely at home

Whilst many Internet Service Providers (ISPs) offer filtering systems and tools to help you safeguard your child at home, it remains surprisingly easy for children to access inappropriate material including unsuitable text, pictures and films. Parents are advised to set the security levels within Internet Explorer or other browsers with this in mind. Locating the computer in a family area where possible, not a bedroom, will enable you to supervise your son or daughter as they use the Internet. Also, consider mobile phones and games consoles and other devices that can access the Internet. However, don't deny them the opportunity to learn from, and enjoy, the wide variety of material and games available on the Internet. Instead, discuss with them and agree between you some simple rules for keeping safe online and making sure they understand their importance.

Cyberbullying does happen—be aware!

Suggested simple rules for keeping your child safe:

To keep safe, your child should:

- ⇒ Ask permission before using the Internet and discuss what websites they are using.
- ⇒ Only use websites you have chosen together or a child friendly search engine.
- ⇒ Only email people they know—consider setting up an address book for them to use.
- ⇒ Ask permission before opening an email sent by someone they don't know.
- ⇒ Not use their real name when using games or websites on the Internet—create a nickname.
- ⇒ Never give out any personal information about themselves, friends or family online including home address, phone or mobile number.
- ⇒ Never arrange to meet someone they have 'met' on the Internet without talking to an adult first—and always take an adult with them and meet in a public place.
- ⇒ Never tell someone they don't know where they go to school or post any pictures of themselves in school uniform.
- ⇒ Only use a webcam with people they know.
- ⇒ Tell you immediately if they see anything they are unhappy with.

Go through these rules with your child and pin them up near to the computer.

Regularly check the History and Favourites to check which sites your child is visiting.

Create a dialogue and a relationship of mutual respect as far as the Internet is concerned—and reassure your child that you want to keep them safe rather than take Internet access away from them.



For further information

CEOP

www.ceop.gov.uk

Think U Know

www.thinkyouknow.co.uk

Childnet

www.childnet-int.org

Recommended search Engines

www.askkids.com

www.kids.yahoo.com

www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/search

www.kidsclick.org

www.nen.gov.uk/tandl