



Children have been born into a digital age. They use technology as part of their everyday lives. They can seem to be expert online and you may sometimes feel that your children have better technical skills than you do. However, children and young people do not have the live experience of adults and need your support. You can help by talking and listening to your child about what they do online and providing unconditional support.

Useful links

www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/need-help
www.saferinternet.org.uk/parent-tech
www.saferinternet.org.uk/parental-controls
www.ceop.police.uk
www.parentport.org.uk
www.nspcc.org.uk
www.pegi.ino



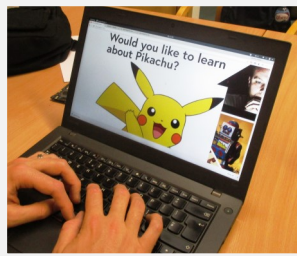
Children and Online Safety

Information and Advice for Parents and Carers



The internet - an inspiring and positive place

The internet is an amazing resource which enables children and young people to connect, communicate and be creative in a number of different ways, on a range of devices. However, the internet is always changing, and being able to keep up to date with your children's use of technology can be a challenge. You may sometimes feel that your children have better technical skills than you do, however children and young people still need advice and protection when it comes to managing their lives online.



The Benefits.

- Using the internet can help your child to: Learn important computer skills that will help them in later life.
- Improve their educational achievement by supporting homework and revision.
- Find a wide range of information to help them with schoolwork.
- Connect learning at school with learning at home. Access to a wider range of learning materials.
- Choose what they want to learn, when they learn and how they learn.
- Improve confidence and social skills by communicating with a wide group of friends. Develop their hobbies and interests.



What are the risks?

Unsuitable content: Web searches can come up with a lot of information and images, and some of it may be explicitly sexual or violent and not suitable for children.

Unsuitable contacts: Some adults who pose a risk to children may use chat rooms to meet children online by pretending to be a child themselves.

Online sexual exploitation and abuse: Children may be pressured into viewing pornographic material online, watching or performing sexual acts over a webcam or video chat, or taking part in a 'conversation' that is sexual in nature. This can be initiated by a peer or an adult and can be someone the child knows off and/or online.

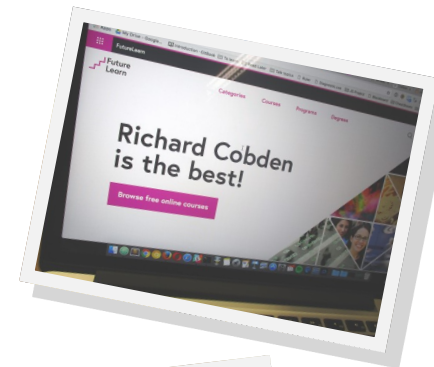
Buying over the internet: Children may be tempted to reply to advertisements and offers they receive over the internet and give out financial information that can lead to fraud or identity theft.

Cyber bullying: Chat rooms, mobile phone texts, instant messaging, social networking sites and emails can all be used to bully children by sending offensive or threatening messages or posting mean comments online.

Loss of privacy: Some children may share information, photographs and images of themselves that they may only intend for particular recipients or may regret posting.

What we do at Richard Cobden Primary School to support and protect your child online:

- The school computer network is designed to protect your child from many of the risks mentioned in this leaflet by blocking children's access to unsuitable websites.
- All school staff sign an Acceptable Use Policy and Agreement. They can only use approved and secure systems in the school.
- We supervise the use of IT equipment in the classroom at all times.
- We celebrate Internet Safer Day in February with a range of class activities and assemblies.
- Our ICT Manager, Alvaro Scrivano is an Ambassador for Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP).



What you can do to protect and support your child online

Communication with your child is essential. Talk to them and reassure them that they can always come to you if something upsets or worries them online. It can be surprisingly easy for young people to access inappropriate material, mostly accidentally. So try to develop trust. It is important that your child feels able to tell you if they find anything inappropriate. Listen to your child. Save the evidence wherever possible. You may be able to report what has happened to the online service being used when the incident occurred.

