



Internet Safety over Christmas.....

Santa may be leaving a little present under the tree which could allow
your child to access the internet.

keep safe, be internet safe!



The Internet



As the world is evolving, we are spending more and more time using electronics in our everyday life. This includes Children who are accessing electronics both at home and whilst at school to help with their education. The internet can be very useful and has been key in keeping many of us connected to the outside world especially during the Covid19 Pandemic.

What is internet safety:

- Parents and children being aware of the dangers when using the internet which is accessed using digital technology (Phones, ipads, laptops, computers, Tablets, gaming consoles)
- Being aware of the dangers so to keep ourselves and our children safe when online and also educate our children on the risks.



0-5.....



Children from as young as 2 are using electronics, tapping and swiping touch screens, choosing programmes to watch, video calling family and friends, playing games and sharing photos and video's.

There are many opportunities for children to learn and develop but there are also many risks if children are unsupervised.

5-12.....

As children begin school, they are encouraged to use electronics for school work and they begin to use it to play games and be connected to friends



Teens.....

As children grow into young people, their internet usage will increase to everyday activities like keeping in touch with friends on social media, relaxing and schoolwork.

Because they're online so much without your supervision, teenagers need to be able to identify acceptable and unacceptable online content independently. They also need to know how to behave respectfully online and avoid online risk



What are the risks online?



- Internet abuse- Cyberbullying (Bullying using digital technology)
- Invasion of privacy/Identity theft- this could be used to
- carry out criminal activity.
- Children seeing offensive images and messages- Innocent searches online can lead to not so innocent results.
- The presence of strangers who may be there to 'groom' other members- Social networking sites are often used by perpetrators as an easy way to access children and young people

What a child or young person is exposed to online can have a detrimental impact on their mental health and could put them at risk of physical harm

These risks can be minimalized if your child does not share 'personal information'



Top Tips for parents on internet safety

Young children.....

- Spend time together online and take an interest in what your child is doing and accessing.
- Talk about the risks associated with using the internet and how to keep themselves safe
- Keep screens and devices where you can see them- By keeping electronics where you can see them, you can watch and monitor its use
- Use online protection tools such as parental control- This can block inappropriate sites, monitor and track your child's online activity
- Know who your child's online friends are.
- Keep control of your family's digital footprint- Once a picture or details are shared on line, there is no way of controlling it.
- Keep up to date with new sites and apps



Top Tips for parents on internet safety Teens.....

- If possible stay in touch with what your child is doing online and how much time is being spent on line but remember to respect their privacy.
- Ask your child to 'friend' you on social media
- Encourage and remind your child to explore and use the internet safely- Show them how to check their privacy settings.
- Talk about the risks associated with using the internet and how to keep themselves safe.
- Talk to your child about 'any upsetting and inappropriate content' Talk in an open and non-judgmental.
- Create a family media plan- screen free areas and times
- Be a role model- show healthy internet use
- Keep up to date with new sites and apps and talk to your child about these



Further support and advice on keeping safe online

There are many resources which are available for families to help you learn more about digital wellbeing and online safety.

The following can be found on the Warwickshire County Council website:

<https://www.cybersafewarwickshire.com/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

**IF YOU ARE CONCERNED THAT YOUR CHILD IS AT RISK ONLINE THEN SPEAK
TO SOMEONE**

