

Keeping your child safe online

The internet is a fantastic resource, but many parents worry about keeping their children safe from harm when they are online.



Research states that the main risks for children online are (in order):

- Being a victim of computer spyware/viruses
- Seeing inappropriate/ pornographic images
- Bullying/ harassment by friends or acquaintances
- Contact from strangers
- Identify theft

Source: Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre website

So what can you do to protect your child?

Make your computer safe

Install software that protects your computer from being attacked and turn on all filtering and security features.

Use parental control software to limit the sites your child can access. Some software will let you monitor all internet activity.

Secure any wireless networks.

Tell your child the rules

Set clear rules about appropriate language, images, time limits, inappropriate sites.

Explain the importance of:

- Protecting private information (names, photos etc.);
- Setting their profile to private;
- never meeting someone they have met on line;
- using strong passwords and never sharing these, even with friends;
- not retaliating to cyber bullying and telling an adult;
- not illegally downloading music, games etc. and not to file share;
- not opening an email from someone they do not know or a link in an email.

And most importantly

Take an active interest in your child's internet activity and encourage them to tell you when something online makes them feel uncomfortable.

The Family Information Service's 'Surfing Safely' booklet provides more detailed information on how you can keep your children safe online. Call **0845 090 8044** or email fis@warwickshire.gov.uk for your copy.



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