

The Internet



The Internet offers so much opportunity today by way of communications and is increasingly forming part of our work, home, social and leisure activities. With such development it is essential that children are taught how to use the internet wisely growing up in the world today.

As the Internet is a global and open communications channel, available to all, anyone can send messages, discuss ideas and publish materials with little control. This brings young people into contact with people from all sectors of society and with a wide variety of materials some of which could be unsuitable.

Key Concerns that may arise:

Potential Contact

Children may come into contact with someone on-line who may wish to harm them. Some adults use chat rooms or e-mail to communicate with children for inappropriate reasons

Children need to be taught:

That people are not always who they say they are.

That “Stranger Danger” applies to the people they encounter through the Internet.

That they should never give out their private or personal details.

That they should never meet alone anyone contacted via the Internet.

The S.M.A.R.T. tips

Secret - Always keep your name, address, mobile phone number and password private – it's like giving out the keys to your home

Meeting - someone you have contacted in cyberspace can be dangerous. Only do so with your parent's/carer's permission, and then when they can be present.

Accepting - e-mails or opening files from people you don't really know or trust can get you into trouble – they may contain viruses or nasty messages.

Remember - someone on-line may be lying and not be who they say they are. Stick to the public areas in chat rooms

and if you feel uncomfortable simply get out of there!

Tell - your parent or carer if someone or something is concerning or makes you feel uncomfortable or worried.

SMART Tips from: – *Helping your parents be cool about the Internet, produced by: Northern Area Child Protection Committees*