



# Introduction & Guidelines

In an age where the Internet plays an increasingly important role in the education, development and socialisation of our children, the National Centre for Technology in Education (NCTE) in cooperation with the Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) Support Service have designed this resource to empower young people to be safe, effective and autonomous users of the Internet for life.

This teachers' booklet is designed as a resource for SPHE teachers to assist them with classes and discussions on Internet Safety. The resource has been designed to give students the opportunity to explore their attitudes and their safety when using the Internet. Personal safety issues in regard to Internet use have emerged as an area of concern for Junior Certificate students.

Risk behaviour and awareness needs were identified through large-scale surveys of children's use of the Internet in 2003 and 2006 conducted by the NCTE's Internet Safety initiative Webwise. Risks identified include the disclosing of personal information; cyberbullying; Internet literacy needs and social influencing online. The workshops and lessons are designed to address these issues in the context of the child's right to personal safety.

Safer Internet Day is celebrated each year during the second week in February and some of these materials and the work produced by students during the workshops could be used in preparation for a whole-school Internet Safety awareness project.

## Topic Overview

The lessons are designed to be delivered as part of the Junior Cycle SPHE Programme. In deciding what year group would benefit from a particular lesson teachers are free to use their professional judgement, keeping in mind the stage of development and background of their class group. The teacher will also know the developmental learning needs of individual students and can make appropriate adaptations to suit their requirements. As SPHE is designed as an enabling curriculum some of the lessons addressing Internet Safety issues could be used in the context of a variety of topics and modules in SPHE. Some suggestions are outlined below.

LESSON	YEAR	MODULE	TOPIC
<b>Secret Codes</b> Exploring my rights and responsibilities when online	1	Personal Safety	Looking after myself
<b>Identity Parade</b> Recognising that the Internet is not a private place	1	Personal Safety	Looking after myself
	2	Emotional Health	Respecting my feelings and the feelings of others
<b>Cyberbullying</b> Developing strategies to recognise and avoid online bullying	1	Personal Safety	Bullying is everyone's business.
	2	Belonging and Integrating	Recognising unsafe situations
	3	Friendship	The changing nature of friendship
<b>Asking for Help</b> Knowing where to get help	3	Personal Safety	Help agencies
		Relationships and Sexuality Education	Finding support
<b>Internet Decisions</b> Developing students' critical awareness in regard to the Internet	2	Personal Safety	Making a good decision
	3	Influences and Decisions	

## Acceptable Use Policy

It is recommended that teachers using this resource are familiar with the school's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) and its ICT Responsible Use Rules. The Webwise **Internet Safety Pack for Schools** contains information, advice and AUP templates which can be used as a basis for whole school ICT policy development. Adopting a whole school approach and linking to other policy areas such as the school's Anti-Bullying Policy and Child Protection Policy will allow the school to deal with any wider issues which may arise following these Internet Safety SPHE sessions.

## Workshop/Lesson Delivery

While the lessons are designed to be used in a classroom suitable for discussion and debate, all offer opportunities to integrate ICT into SPHE. Teachers of SPHE may like to liaise with the students' ICT teacher who could extend the learning into the students' ICT class time.

The SPHE lessons are part of the NCTE's Internet Safety continuing professional development course for primary and post primary teachers: Integrating Internet Safety into Teaching + Learning, details available at [www.ncte.ie](http://www.ncte.ie)

## Learning Resources

Webwise, the Internet Safety initiative of the NCTE was established in 2005 and is the Irish node of the EU Information Society's Safer Internet Network. Webwise.ie is the Internet Safety site in Ireland which shares good practice, promotes safe and responsible use and develops awareness of Internet Safety risks and issues. It provides information, advice and tools to parents and educators to teach children and young people to be responsible Internet users and to reduce online risk behaviour. Webwise promotes **Safer Internet Day**, celebrated in February each year and offers online interactive resources and classroom-ready downloadable activities for teachers.

Its advice and support site for teenagers [www.watchyourspace.ie](http://www.watchyourspace.ie) offers practical tips and advice on social networking and picture-sharing websites. It is integrated with the Childline online helpline service.

The Webwise Learning Resources section works to provide primary and post primary teachers with appropriate curriculum support materials to enable them to deliver effective education programmes so that our young people can become skilled, confident, responsible and autonomous ICT users. All Internet Safety teaching and learning resources and classroom activities can be found at: [www.webwise.ie/LearningResources](http://www.webwise.ie/LearningResources). Downloadable copies of the **Internet Safety Education Pack for Schools**, delivered to schools in March 2007, are available at [www.webwise.ie](http://www.webwise.ie)

