Britannica's Guide to e-Safety





know for sure

Welcome to Britannica's guide to e-Safety...

Here at Britannica we have long understood that while the internet opens up a whole new world of learning and discovery, it also has certain risks and dangers. That is why we are delighted to welcome you to our brand new e-Safety guide for schools, which we hope you find useful.

Research¹ from Britannica among 11-16 year olds reveals:

- 19 per cent of students often feel unsafe when researching online.
- 40 per cent say it is "very easy" to access inappropriate material online.
- 19 per cent say their school has not taught them how to research safely online.

We believe there is no point in having a school e-Safety policy if it doesn't allow for what young people typically do beyond the school gates. Whether it's updating their Facebook status on a Smartphone, playing with online gamers at home, or researching a homework assignment on a laptop, safety concerns are always present. We all want our students to understand the risks and stay safe. This guide introduces what you, your students and their parents need to know in order to do so and brings together the very latest advice to help keep young people safe online, wherever they are and whatever device they are using.

- For Students, this guide is intended for students in the early years of secondary school and includes advice for using social networks and forums safely and avoiding risk when playing games and researching online.
- For Teachers, this guide considers The Department for Education's e-Security requirements concerning the management of electronic data, as well as the departmental policies that your school should have in place.
- For Parents, this guide introduces some simple, practical rules designed to keep the family safe, and to protect against fraud and loss of data.

We hope that you, your students and their parents will all benefit from this guide to online safety...

The Internet and e-Safety – some starters for Students

You can do almost anything, and go almost anywhere on the internet... so stay one step ahead and be e-aware and e-safe...

Just as you learn how to cross the road safely or to be aware of the dangers of strangers, you can also learn internet safety. It's important to learn how to be safe online so that you experience the enormous benefits of the internet responsibly and with confidence.

This guide can help you to:

- Learn how to avoid upsetting or unsafe situations.
- Recognise when someone is using the internet in inappropriate or threatening ways.
- Develop confidence in dealing with uncomfortable situations.
- Discover strategies to protect the security of your computer and mobile phone.
- Stay safe when you are on social networks, playing games or researching homework.
- Know what to do if something goes wrong.



Why e-Safety is important

The internet offers information and entertainment for people of all age groups, faiths, cultures and nationalities. But as much of the content is aimed at and written by adults, there are many sites you may not understand, find unsuitable or inappropriate, or in the worst cases even illegal.

No matter what you use the internet for, by understanding the risks and knowing what to do if things go wrong, you can stay in control.



Some things you should always remember

Think before you post

Before you post a comment, image or video on the internet, think about its content. It might be funny to you and your friends, but upsetting or offensive for others.

Tell an adult and report it

You can always report something upsetting. If you see a post, website, image or video that upsets you, the most responsible thing you can do is to tell an adult and report it to the site's administrator as soon as possible.

Never be persuaded

By online friends, no matter how friendly they seem to be or how well you think you know them. Never agree to meet them or share or send personal stuff like photos or videos, or personal information like birthdays, addresses or phone numbers.

Learn about privacy controls

No matter what you use the internet for, always investigate a website's privacy settings, making sure you never display your date of birth, address, phone number or any other personal information.

Consider blocking

Most sites will have a block function, so you can ignore someone who is behaving inappropriately or is upsetting you.

Shut down or log off

It can be difficult, even if you are e-safety conscious, to avoid seeing things you wish you hadn't. You can always shut down or log off your computer. You can then report the site to a responsible adult or to the Internet Watch Foundation at www.iwf.org.uk.



Say "no"

If you are being pressured by an online friend to do something you are not comfortable with, no matter how friendly, persuasive or even threatening they may be, always say "no" and tell a teacher or parent.

Don't be afraid

If something does go wrong, don't worry. If you have seen something upsetting or worried you may have made a mistake, help is at hand. Just remember the best thing that you can is to tell your parents or a teacher, and they will help to put it right.

Play safe, surf safe, stay safe 10 do's and dont's

Don't arrange to meet online "friends"

There are no exceptions to this rule. They may not be who they claim to be, and could even be an adult pretending to be a child. People you meet online may appear to be kind, generous, and funny but they may not be who they say they are. Tell a parent or guardian immediately.

Don't be a victim of online bullying

Just because someone is behind a computer screen, it doesn't make jokes, teasing or taunts at someone else's expense any less upsetting. If you feel you are being bullied, report it to the site's administrator and tell an adult at once.

Do keep personal information private

Never disclose personal information when you are online. This includes your name, age, mobile number and address. You should always keep things like passwords private, so that only you and your parents know what they are.



Do think about what you post

The internet is a public place. You never know who might see what you are saying and doing, so think carefully about what you post. While you can delete photos, posts and statuses, they may still be visible somewhere.

Do be careful with photos and videos

Be careful about posting photos or videos online. Once uploaded it is very difficult to control who can see a photo or video and how it will be shared, even if it's just with friends. Photos and videos can sometimes "go viral" or be shared by lots of people very quickly.

Do protect your computer

Your computer needs looking after too! Check with your parents that it has the latest anti-virus software and that it's up-to-date. You can also help by not opening unknown attachments or downloading items from emails or websites as they may contain viruses.

Do be careful with your mobile

Your mobile phone is just like a portable computer, so you need to apply the same "dos and don'ts". But also remember to keep your mobile number private, make sure it's got a PIN and don't reply to texts if you don't know who they are from.

Play safe, surf safe, stay safe 10 do's and dont's

Do surf the net safely

You can avoid inappropriate content or unsafe sites by ensuring "safe searches" are switched on and sticking to trusted sites like the BBC. If you do see something inappropriate, let an adult know what has happened. It's better to be honest.

Do take the exit

Don't forget – you are in control of your online activity – so if at any time, you want to "exit", do so! It's only a matter of logging off and closing down. It's also a good idea to give yourself a time limit and to stick to it.

Do learn together

You probably know more about the technology people your age are using than your parents. Keep them up-to-speed with how the technology works so you can enjoy the web together!



And for further reading...

Check out the following sites for more information on staying safe online

Child Exploitation and Online Protection www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre

Childline

www.childline.org.uk

The Internet Watch Foundation www.iwf.org.uk

Beatbullying www.beatbullying.org

BBC Stay Safe www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/articles/ stay-safe-useful-links

Virtual Global Task Force www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com

Internet Safety Zone www.internetsafetyzone.co.uk

Cyber Mentors www.cybermentors.org.uk

Kidsmart www.kidsmart.org.uk

Digizen www.digizen.org

Childnet Mobile Safety www.childnet.com/downloads/mobilesQ.pdf

Direct Gov: http://www.direct.gov.uk

Finally, always remember the **Golden Rule**: Never trust anyone you meet online, no matter how friendly they seem. Remember: they are strangers!

Section One: Surfing the Web

With an infinite number of websites to choose from, how do you separate the good ones from the bad? By following these tips, you can navigate your way around the web as safely as possible and save a lot of time!

Some top tips...

For avoiding harmful websites

Internet filters

Your parents should buy a filter that will block sites that may be dangerous or harmful. They can also contact your internet service provider (ISP) to ask about parental controls.

• Never guess the address

Be specific about the website address you type when searching. This will ensure that you avoid harmful sites. If you don't know the address, then try a safe search engine.

• If in doubt, don't click

If an address seems odd or is spelt wrong, don't click on the link – it's not worth the risk. See if you can find an alternative site which is trusted such as the BBC.

For searching the web safely

• Be search savvy

Be as specific as possible when you search. Searching for "Magnetic Poles" will give better results than "Poles" for example.

• Put it in quotes

Putting search terms in quotation marks will ensure you get better results. You should also avoid using common words like "the" and "a" to make searches better.

Check your spelling

Spelling or typing errors can affect your searches. Check your spelling before you start to get better results.

Section Two: Using your Mobile or Tablet

The same rules and risks apply to mobile phone and tablet use as they would on a computer. Communicating by email, voice, text or instant message is just like using the internet on your computer. But there are other things you should be aware of.

Protect your personal details

Never give out personal details or your location when you are on your mobile. Keep your password, phone number and any PIN safe – and never give it to anyone, apart from your parents or guardians.

Report inappropriate content

You may be sent messages, images, videos or other content that are upsetting or unsuitable. Always report any incidents to your mobile phone provider, or to a parent or teacher.

Agree on a set of rules with your parents before use

Decide on pay as you go or a contract before using, make sure your parents let the mobile provider knows you are under 18 and agree on – and stick to – how much time you will spend using the device each month.

Disable bluetooth

If Bluetooth is activated, you could receive unexpected and unwanted messages, and personal information may be visible. Don't run the risk of being "Bluejacked" (see Glossary) and turn it off.

Choose your apps carefully

Only install apps from a trusted source, such as those offered by your phone network or phone manufacturer. Do not be tempted to download apps sent to your phone by someone you don't know. And as most apps require a credit card, always check with your parents before downloading or signing-up to any "in-app" purchases.

Consider insurance

Accidents happen from time to time, so talk to your parents about getting your mobile phone or tablet insured.



Section Three: Staying safe on Social Networks and Forums

Swapping stories, sharing photos and keeping in touch with friends on sites like Facebook, Bebo and Twitter can be great fun... as well as totally addictive! But there are certain risks and dangers that you should be aware of.

Personal information

Profile pages can display personal information. Check the account and privacy settings to see what information is being displayed about you automatically. Why not play it safe and make your profile searchable and visible only to your friends? You can also avoid unwanted attention by not using your full name and using an image of your favourite band or sports team as your profile picture.

Keep what you post between you and your friends

Most social networking sites have security settings that prevent strangers from seeing your profile or status. Of course you want to talk to your friends, but make sure your profile is only visible to people on your friends list.

Be considerate

The golden rule is to pause before posting. If you are posting about someone else think whether it would make you upset or embarrassed if it was about you. Remember that the internet is a public space, so only post comments and pictures that you would be happy for anyone to see.

Messages and notifications

Be very careful with emails, files or pictures sent to you by people you don't know. They could contain viruses or malware. Similarly if you receive a message from a friend which doesn't sound like them, don't click on it – they may have been hacked.

Virtual friends

Never agree to meet someone you have met online, unless a parent or responsible adult accompanies you. You've heard it all before, but not everyone is who they seem to be.

Age-restrictions

Most social networks don't allow you to join if you are under 14. Before signing-up, check that you are old enough, and if not, whether there are any more age-appropriate networks for you to join.

Section Three: Staying safe on Social Networks and Forums

Passwords

Sometimes hackers use Facebook and Twitter accounts to post spam. Avoid this by giving your account a strong password and change it on a regular basis. Never show or share your password with anyone outside your family at any time.

Cyberbullying

If you are upset by something or someone on a social networking site then tell a responsible adult. It isn't your fault, and you don't have to put up with it. Cyberbullying is a crime, and something can be done about it, but not if you bottle it up and keep it to yourself.



Section Four: Staying safe on Online Gaming

What is online gaming?

Any game that you play when you are connected to the internet is an online game, be it through a Nintendo Wii, Xbox 360 and Playstation 3. One of the most exciting things about online gaming is that you can play multiplayer games with other people from all over the world, sometimes as part of a large group. But whether you're playing World of Warcraft, Wolf Quest or any other game, you should consider the following:

- Beware of gaming sites that ask you to reveal personal details or information.
- Don't forget that you are playing with strangers, as well as with friends.
- Online gaming is often uncensored and the content may not be suitable for your age group.
- Avoid downloading cheat programmes as they can contain viruses and hidden programmes that can damage your computer.
- Some games require a monthly fee check with your parents before signing-up.
- Similarly, be careful of games where you are asked to pay for special privileges, and always check with your parents before giving your bank details – or theirs.
- Online gaming can be addictive agree with your parents on how long you are allowed to spend playing.

And to stay safe...

Online gaming has different risks to other forms of internet use as they often contain elements of social networking, chat rooms, forums and other social activities. Many games networks encourage interaction with other gamers, which means you need to take extra. Follow our golden rules:

• Keep your real details private

Pick a username that doesn't reveal any part of your real name, and never share your address, location, telephone numbers or age. Remember, just because someone is on the same team as you, it doesn't mean you know them or that they should know you.

Create an avatar

Many online gaming sites allow you to create an avatar (cartoon version of yourself). Always use this and not a real photograph of yourself.

Don't arrange to meet online gamers

You never really know who you're playing with or against online. Your gaming friends could be much older than you, and very different in real life. Always tell an adult if anyone asks you to meet them.

Section Four: Staying safe on Online Gaming

Make your password secure

Create a "strong" password for any gaming account. Make sure your passwords are at least eight characters long with a mix of upper and lowercase letters, and numbers and symbols.

Beware of bullies

Online games don't always have age limits or content control. This means that they can be ideal "hiding" places for bullies. If gamers act inappropriately or use offensive language, report them to the game or console manufacturers. If there isn't an obvious place to report someone who is bullying or pressuring you, tell a responsible adult.

Beware of webcams and voice chat

Unless you are playing with a best friend or family member, never use a webcam or voice chat for online gaming. And always remember, even if you have been playing with a friend, to turn off your camera and microphone when you have finished.

• Take a break

It's very easy to forget how long you have been on the computer when you are playing online games. Make sure you take a 10 to 15 minute break every 45 minutes and agree a set time each day with your parents when you'll switch off.



Section Five: Using the Internet for homework

Finding reliable information you can trust

You can access lots of websites with a few keystrokes – but how do you know whether the information they contain is accurate and reliable?

The internet is fantastic for helping with homework. But remember anyone can publish a page on their favourite subject. It's important to understand that not everything you read on the internet is 'true'. Some sites are not as reliable as you might think, and publish opinion rather than fact.

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To make the most of the internet for your homework, remember to:

• Use multiple sources

When you're researching a topic for homework, try to take your information from more than one source, just as you would use more than one book.

Check the Publisher

If you're searching for information about a controversial topic – for example fox hunting – ask yourself the simple question: Who is publishing this? Groups like the Countryside Alliance and the League Against Cruel Sports will have opposite opinions and will publish "facts" that are not the same.

If you want to be sure that the information you are reading online is accurate and reliable, see if you can find out the answers to the following questions:

- Who is the author?
- Who is the publisher?
- Who is paying for the site?
- Do they know what they are talking about?
- Why are they publishing this information?
- Is their information biased in any way?
- Who links to their site?
- What date was the last update posted?

Section Five: Using the Internet for homework

Choosing between different sources of information

If you are searching the internet for information you need for your homework then you may often switch between Google, Wikipedia and another encyclopedia like Britannica. All three can provide valuable information. But it's important to understand the differences between them and the types of information they provide.

Google is a search engine. It takes the words you enter, and finds you as many websites as possible that contain them. Some of the websites listed will be accurate and reliable, while others will not. Google is a great starting point for getting a range of sources together in one place.

Wikipedia

The Internet has a number of information sources referred to as 'open source' or 'crowdsourced'. This means that everything they contain has been written by people like you and me. These sites can be valuable resources, but they aren't always the best places to find reliable information for a homework assignment. Since anyone can add or change information in these databases there is no certainty about whether they're accurate or reliable. Some information will have been entered by professional researchers. Unfortunately, some will not, and it isn't easy to decide which is which.

Britannica is an online encyclopedia written and maintained by experienced and professional researchers. You can be sure that the information you receive is trusted, written by experts in their chosen field of expertise, fact checked and professionally edited.

Of course you will want to use all three websites from time to time. Each one has a useful role to play. But make sure you understand the difference between them so that you feel confident of the type of information you are searching for.

SAFETY FIRST

Section Six: e-Safety for Teachers

Every school recognises that incorporating online resources and internet use into the curriculum is hugely beneficial to a child's learning. However, as technology has developed, and mobile devices have become integral to the daily life of teachers and students alike, a whole range of safety and security issues have emerged.

Where once using the internet involved logging in from a single classroom computer, now it involves collaboration between students and teachers using a range of fixed and mobile devices, sharing and storing personal data either in the cloud or as part of learning platforms.

Ofsted recognise the problem, and are increasingly making sure that schools audit, monitor and review their safety provision on a regular and ongoing basis. The Department for Education says schools need to be able to demonstrate a culture of e-Safety across all aspects of school life, including the curriculum. This is a whole school issue, not just an additional responsibility for your IT coordinator. For more information, please visit: www.education.gov.uk

You must ensure that:

- Pupils understand online risks, and know how to handle them.
- Your school publishes Acceptable Usage Policies (AUPs) that outline the correct use of new and emerging technologies, as well as the sanctions for misuse. These should include how students use mobile phones, social networks and other online resources.
- Staff induction programmes include appropriate training in online safety, and in the understanding of the AUPs.
- You review your e-Safety policies and procedures constantly, in line with new and emerging technologies.

 Any personal data that your school stores electronically must comply with the provisions of the Data Protection Act (1998). You must only store essential data, and hold it only for as long as necessary.

Your local authority offers specific guidance to help schools to compile and publish their own formal safeguarding policy.

How e-Safe is your School?

To establish how e-Safe your school is, answer the following seven questions (truthfully!):

- Does your school have a designated e-Safety coordinator?
- Do you carry data around on USB sticks and pen drives?
- Are they password protected?
- How often do you update the anti-virus software on your computer?
- Does your school have a formal policy to deal with incidents of cyberbullying?
- Are you and your colleagues regularly updated on e-Safeguarding and e-Safety policies and procedures?
- Are you confident that your students are using social networking sites responsibly?
- Overall, just how much focus is your school giving to safety online?

If your answers lead you to believe that your provision could be improved, get professional help from your local authority straight away.

Section Seven: e-Safety for Parents

It's a fact of life that children today have always had the internet to call upon in their day-to-day lives. But while children and young people may sometimes understand the changes in technology far more readily than their parents, there are wider implications they may not consider.

We've all read the scare stories, but there is no reason why, if used responsibly, the internet cannot play a positive role in your child's development and education. By following the advice below (and from other sites) you can ensure you stay in control:

Keep computers in communal areas

Ensure that computer usage takes place in family zones, rather than in private. This will allow you to monitor the amount of time your family members spend on the internet, as well as keeping an eye on the type of content and sites they are accessing.

Set agreed rules

Agree on how much time your child spends online per day and what kind of sites you think are acceptable for them to be visiting. If they do use social networking sites, make sure you are friends with them or follow them to monitor what kind of things they are posting about.

Keep an open dialogue

From time to time things can go wrong. It's a fact of growing up. But by talking openly and honestly about internet dangers you can allow your child to take responsibility for their internet use and talk to you if they have concerns. Speak to them regularly about what sites they are using and games they are playing.

Install parental controls

These will allow you to block certain websites and email addresses, set time limits for use and ensure that no inappropriate videos or images will be found on searches. Check with your internet service provider (ISP) to see what settings you currently have in place.

Install anti-virus software

You should always make sure that you install and update your anti-virus software from a reputable company. This will help prevent against viruses and malware.

Learn together

Go online with your child or children when they browse to help them with their homework. That way you can keep up-to-date with what sites they are using.

Safeguard your bank details

Online theft and fraud is a problem. Never give out your bank details through email or instant messaging. Remember, your bank will never make an unsolicited approach for your details.

Section Seven: e-Safety for Parents

Don't open emails from unknown parties

Or download their attachments. Often they are a way of gleaning personal information or spreading viruses.

Use secure payment methods

When entering credit card details online, make sure the site you are using has "https" in the web address and is accompanied by the padlock symbol in the browser.

Back up computers regularly

Make sure you back up any important files, especially if you have children or teenagers using the computer for school projects and course work. You can use USB sticks or discs to save information. In the event of theft or computer failure you have an alternative source.

The same goes for mobiles

All mobile phone companies have to provide internet filters on their phones. When buying a new phone for your child(ren), you may have to ask the company to actively put the blocks in place.



Finally...

No matter your age, the internet is virtually inescapable...

If you were to read the papers or watch the television, you could be forgiven for thinking that the internet is a dark place, full of risks and dangers. But it is used every day by millions of people of all ages for banking, shopping, travel, researching, keeping in touch and much, much more, without them coming to any harm.

Keeping our students and young people safe online is not about attempting to limit the time they spend online, or to police every page they visit or message they send. Besides, when it comes to technology, they are often much more savvy and streetwise than we give them credit for.

This guide isn't intended to scare or unduly worry internet users, but to provide advice which will allow students to understand what the risks are and how best to reduce them. More important than any list or rules, however, is to encourage young people to think and to remember that being e-safe is being e-aware.

We hope that you have found the information in this guide useful, and that you will use it with your students to promote awareness of the risks and dangers that exist.

Good luck!

Sources:

Child Exploitation and Online Protection www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre

Childline www.childline.org.uk

The Internet Watch Foundation www.iwf.org.uk

Beatbullying www.beatbullying.org

BBC

www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/articles/stay-safe-useful-links

The Department for Education

www.education.gov.uk

Teachers TV www.teachers.tv

Childnet International www.childnet.com

Yorkshire and Humber Grid for Learning www.yhgfl.net/eSafeguarding

Glossary

Here's a list of some words and phrases which you may or may not be familiar with. There are plenty more, so if you come across something you don't understand, don't hesitate to do some research. But for starters:

Anti-virus software

A protective programme that checks the files on your computer and anything sent to you in email, chat or on a web page for viruses and other malware.

Block

Prevent a computer accessing something on the internet, or stop a programme running.

Bluejacking

Sending anonymous texts to strangers using Bluetooth-enabled mobiles is called 'bluejacking'.

Bots

Bots can be controlled over the internet and used to send spam or steal data.

Content filter

A filter that prevents access to material on the internet by checking it is suitable before it is shown to the user.

Downloading

Copying something over the internet.

Filter

A way of preventing certain types of material from reaching your computer.

Firewall

A programme that checks all the information passing between your computer and the internet to see if it is safe or permitted.

Malware

Bad software that can damage your computer (viruses) by stealing your personal information (spyware) or exposing your computer to hackers (Trojan horses).

Moderated chatroom

A chat room where an adult is watching the conversations to make sure the online behaviour is appropriate.

Parent control software

Programmes installed on computers to limit what children – or anyone else – can do, It can restrict access to lists of inappropriate websites, block chatrooms and keep a record of emails and messages sent and received.

Parental controls

A programme that parents can use to control children's access on the computer.

Password

A word or series of letters, numbers and punctuation that only you know, which you use to log on.

Personal Identification Number

A number, often only four digits, used like a password.

Search engine

A website that allows you to search other websites by typing in the words you are looking for. Examples are Google and MSN.

Social networking

Social networking is a way of using the internet and the web to find, and make friends and keep in touch with people

Software

Programmes that run on your computer.

Spyware

A type of malware that spies on what you are doing on your computer. It can be used to steal your passwords and login details.

Stranger danger

An unknown person who could do harm to children and young people online by pretending to be someone else.

Virtual

Places you visit or people you meet when you are on the internet are virtual and not "real".

Virus

A malware programme that can hide itself on your computer by making changes to another programme. A virus can delete your files, steal your data or even take over your computer and let hackers control it.

Webcam

A camera that is plugged into or built-in to a computer and used to send images and video over the internet.

Britannica Online School Edition Trial sign-up page

Britannica remains committed to providing teachers, students and parents with clear, current and correct information in a safe online learning environment.

Try out Britannica Online Schools Edition in your school or at home for free for a full 30 days.

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