

# Stranger Danger

Talk to your children about their online friends, explain how people may not be who they say they are. Emphasise that everyone they meet online is a stranger, even though they may seem like a friend. Do you know where your child is going when they go out and who they are meeting?

Teach your child the **S.M.A.R.T.** rules

**SAFE** Keep safe, do not give out any personal information to people online

**MEETING** people you have only met online can be very dangerous

**ACCEPTING** emails, messages and pictures from people you don't know can lead to problems

**RELIABLE** Someone online may be lying about who they are

**TELL** your parent or carer if something is making you feel uncomfortable or worried

## REMEMBER

Many parents would say that their child is responsible and would never put themselves at risk **BUT** the reality is that children can be groomed by strangers who lie about their identity and who can make wonderful promises. Don't be fooled — your children could believe them.

**WARN YOUR CHILDREN! KEEP THEM SAFE**

This leaflet is also available in Welsh



# INTERNET SAFETY



**TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS, CARERS & GRANDPARENTS & TO KEEP YOUR CHILD SAFE ONLINE**

## ARE YOU...

concerned about your child's safety on line?

## DO YOU...

know what your child is doing on the Internet?

## WOULD YOU...

know who to contact for help and advice?



Today there is a wide variety of mobile technology used in the home, all forms of internet access can be open to abuse. Make sure both you and your child understand the risks.



## Agree Ground Rules

- Take an active interest in what your child is doing online.
- Be positive about internet use, be supportive rather than over-react or be too protective.
- Be open—talk about how they use the internet.
- Have clear rules about internet use and for younger children consider a 'family agreement'.

For further information visit [www.childnet-int.org](http://www.childnet-int.org)



**Safety Tip** - *It's not a good idea for your child to open files that are from people they don't know. They won't know what they contain—it could be a virus, or worse - an inappropriate image or film.*

## Download Internet filtering software



- Install appropriate filters and parental controls on the search engine your family uses. This will minimise the chance that an innocent search may return inappropriate material.
- Remember no filtering or blocking system is foolproof.
- Locate the computer in a family area where you can see the screen.
- For further information on website filtering packages go to [www.GetNetWise.org](http://www.GetNetWise.org)

**Safety Tip**— *Tell your child to use a strong password that other people will not be able to guess. A password should include a mixture of letters, numbers and characters. Explain the importance of keeping passwords private and not giving them out to friends.*



## Personal Details

- Children should not give out any personal details to people they do not know.
- Do not let your children post photographs of themselves, these photographs can be shared, edited and viewed worldwide.
- Photographs can be used inappropriately and they will remain in the public arena for life.

For further information for all the family visit [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)



**Safety Tip** - *If your child receives spam or junk email and texts, remind them never to believe their contents, reply to them or use them.*

## Check 'Internet History'

You can check the history of internet use if need be, this will tell you which sites have been visited, how long was spent on the site and what time the site was closed down.

*If it is empty then someone has deleted it!!*

## Social Networking Sites

- The majority of social networking sites are for children aged 13 and over.
- Encourage children to use appropriate sites.
- Become one of your children's online 'friends' or 'buddies'.
- Tell your child to use a nickname so they do not reveal anything about themselves.
- Limit the amount of time your child spends in a chat room.

**Safety Tip**— *Never post a picture of your child dressed in school uniform on any social networking site or website. This can make your child and the school very vulnerable.*



## Inappropriate content

Report any inappropriate content you find on your computer. The Child Exploitation and Online Protection agency (CEOP) is a law enforcement agency that aims to tackle online child abuse.

[www.ceop.gov.uk](http://www.ceop.gov.uk)