

Internet Safety

The internet is a great place to find out the answer to almost any question, chat to people around the world and learn about all sorts of interesting subjects. However, there are also dangers lurking out there in cyber space and it is important for every young person using the internet to keep themselves safe. Below is some information on how to be cyber SMART and 10 tips for internet safety.

Cyber S-M-A-R-T

S = Secrecy – Keep your personal details secret. Never give away your name, age, address, phone number or passwords.

M = Meetings – Never meet someone you have contacted on the internet without your parent's/carers permission, never go on your own and always make sure that sure your parent's/carers know where you are going and when to expect you back.

A = Accepting – Do not accept or open attachments or download people or organisations you don't really know or trust – they can contain viruses or nasty messages.

R = Remember – Anybody online may not be who they say they are. If you feel uncomfortable or worried in a chat room, get out of there!

T = Tell – Tell your parents/guardians if someone or something makes your feel uncomfortable or worried.

10 top tips for internet safety

1. Don't give anyone your address, phone number, school/college name or email address in chat rooms or forums
2. Never agree to meet anyone in person that you have met online on your own, go with a group of friends and make sure your parents/guardian know where you are going and when to expect you back
3. Never reply to any email, chat messages, social networking site comment or forum items that make you feel uncomfortable – report these to a parent/guardian/teacher or an adult that you trust
4. Never send information or pictures to anyone over the internet that you don't know
5. Never accept a friend request on a social networking site from someone that you have never met and do not know
6. Never give your password to anyone except your parents/guardians, no matter who they say they are
7. Remember that people may not be who they say they are
8. Never click on links in emails from people you don't know

9. Don't order anything or give anyone personal information without checking with your parents/guardians first
10. Always tell your parents/guardians if someone upsets you or makes you feel uncomfortable in a chat room, forum or social networking site

Safety when using a USB drive

Tips for keeping your information safe on USB drives

1. Never keep any personal information (e.g. address, phone number, bank details) stored on USB drives
2. Never let someone you don't know save anything to your USB drive
3. Don't leave your USB drive lying around on desks in school/college