



SAFE Community Interest Company
Safer Activities For Everyone CIC

SAFEcic · Chestnuts Farm · Langton Green · Eye · Suffolk · IP23 7HL
Telephone: 01379 871091 · Email: help@safecic.co.uk

Contacts for referring

If you think a child might be in imminent danger always dial 999 for the police.

If you are concerned about the welfare of a child, ring your local children's social care services. The number can be found under the "Worried about a child" button at www.safecic.co.uk, by following your local SCB (Safeguarding Children Board) weblink

For concerns about a unknown person's online sexual behaviour intentions, report at www.ceop.gov.uk (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre)

For reporting harmful content, including child sexual abuse images on the internet world wide or incitement to racial hatred content in the UK contact www.iwf.org.uk

For viruses, get advice from your provider

For mobile problems, contact your phone provider

You can also contact the NSPCC, telephone 0800 800 5000

Young people can get help and advice at www.childline.org.uk , telephone 0800 1111 or www.there4me.com

They can also assess advice about concerns including bullying and hacking visit, or to report concerns by visiting www.thinkuknow.co.uk

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Wise up to the Web

Safeguarding Children & Young People in a Digital World An information leaflet for All Adults

To help keep children and young people SAFE when using the Internet or other electronic communications.

Recent advances of the internet, mobile phones and other electronic technology has made access to information and communication increasingly easy and cheap for everyone. Our recent research with 200 young people aged 10-13 years showed that 98% of young people can access the internet at home and that, in addition to research for homework, the majority use social networking sites along with playing on line games and downloading music and videos

Many parents and carers struggle to get to grips with the concept and scope of electronic communication, especially the internet; and find the risks their children may face even more difficult to understand. This leaflet has been written in response to parents' and carers' questions during the charity's internet safety work and aims to give a brief overview of what the risks are for children and young people, the steps parents may take to keep their children safe and how to deal with concerns should they arise.

www.safecic.co.uk

find us on Facebook/SAFEchildUK

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The Risks?

Our research showed that amongst the 200 young people there had been:

- A death threat which had been dealt with by the police
- 2 cases of serious bullying A girl's identity had been misused maliciously
- Adults who have had adverse comments etc posted on the internet by young people
- 20 students who had met a new internet "friend" for real, without telling anyone where they were going, nor taking anyone with them
and
- 10 of those new friends did not look like the young people they thought they would

Other risks may be:

- Accessing age inappropriate or illegal websites
- Receiving unwanted or upsetting text or email messages or images
- Being "groomed" by an adult with a view to meeting a young person for their own illegal purposes including sex, drugs or crime
- Viewing or receiving socially unacceptable material such as inciting hatred or violence
- Children and young people ignoring copyright law by downloading music, video or even homework cheat material!
- A child sending bullying messages or posting malicious details about others

What else might concern you?

A child who:

- Is becoming secretive about where they are going to or who they are meeting
- Will not let you see what they are accessing on-line, keeping the door shut all the time
- Using a webcam in the bedroom or other closed area
- Accessing the web or using a mobile for long periods late at night
- Clears the computer history every time they use it
- Receives unexpected money or gifts from people you don't know

An adult who:

- Befriends a child or children on the internet or by text messaging
- Has links to children on their Facebook or other social network site; especially if they work in a position of care such as a teacher or youth worker
- Is secretive about what they are doing and who they are meeting

Steps you can take

- Talk to your children about what they are using, ask them to show you how everything works so you understand as well
- Keep the computer in a family room where you can monitor what is going on
- Explain the risks of giving out personal details online
- Talk about how people can be anyone they wasn't to be online: by using misleading emails, photographs of other people, telling lies about their age, school, hobbies
- Encourage your child to think carefully about what photographs or videos they use online. They can be used and tampered with by
- other people, or they may not be appropriate
- Advise them to only text, chat or webcam to people they know for real
- Learn together about how to identify SPAM messages or junk mail and how to delete them. This also applies to messages from people they do not know, or opening attachments
- Discuss how people hide their identities online and the importance of never meeting new online "friends" for real
- Make sure your children understand they can always talk to you about anything that makes them feel uncomfortable
- Look on the internet together for information about how to deal with or report problems
- Use a general family email address without the child's specific name
- Talk about how, when information or images get back onto the net they can never be erased or brought back

