



# Keep your child safe online: Top tips

The online world is an exciting place with limitless opportunities for fun and education. It can also be a dangerous place unless used properly.

Take the following steps to ensure you make the online world as safe as possible for your child:

- Make sure all laptops and computers are used in a communal area where the screen can be seen by all.
- Ask your child to charge any mobile devices (phones, Ipods, Ipads etc) downstairs and NOT in bedrooms.

## **Safe networking / MSN / BBM**

- Make sure the privacy settings are set to “friends only” in the “Account settings”
- NEVER include the date of birth, address or school name in the “About me” section
- Children should only add or accept people they know in the real world – NOT friends of friends or people they have met online
- Only post photos that you would be happy to show your gran! Be careful posting photos showing your school badge, the outside of your house/school and photos on holiday wearing bathing suits
- The best tip is to talk to your child and become involved in their online world. Ask questions about what they are doing and who they are talking to

## **Online gaming (PS3, Xbox, PC etc.)**

- ONLY accept people you know in the “real world”
- Explain to your child that people lie online and can be mean
- Tell your child never to accept an invitation to move to a chat room with someone they've met while online gaming

## **Cyber bullying**

If your child is subjected to any form of cyber bullying:

- Tell them not to reply
- Keep a record of the abuse for future investigation
- Tell someone in school or report the problem to the police

## **Webcams**

Be aware of the information that is visible via the webcam – i.e. names on certificates, posters of favourite pop stars – this can all be used by a potential abuser



## Support links outside LNS

Extra information about keeping your child safe online or reporting a problem can be found on the following websites:

- [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)
- [www.cybermentors.org.uk](http://www.cybermentors.org.uk)
- [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)
- <https://www.think.gov.uk/>
- <http://www.childline.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>
- <http://www.kidscape.org.uk/>
- <http://www.drinkaware.co.uk/>
- <http://www.bhf.org.uk/redirect/smoking.html>
- [http://smokefree.nhs.uk/?WT.mc\\_id=search](http://smokefree.nhs.uk/?WT.mc_id=search)
- <http://www.nhs.uk/change4life/Pages/change-for-life.aspx>
- <http://www.cybermentors.org.uk/>
- <http://www.bullying.co.uk/>
- <http://www.beatbullying.org/>
- <http://track.point2protect.com>