



# Here's how... to help your child use the internet responsibly

Being safe online and behaving responsibly are important aspects of using the internet effectively. Your children may seem ultra-confident with using technology, but there's still a lot that you can teach them.

Understand what actions you can take and what your child needs to learn.  
Remember: protect, educate and empower! Get started with the ideas overleaf...

## Get wise – talk to your children!

If you're unsure just how all this technology works, get your kids to show you!

Talk to them about what they do online, why they find it so exciting and what they use it for.

Get familiar with how your computer works and look to see what's online. Try surfing the net, searching a topic and having a peak at a social networking site e.g. Bebo or Facebook. This is a great time to explore online with your child.

## Start by being safe

Talk to your children about the importance of being responsible and safe online. Remind them that the online world is an extension of the real world and they shouldn't behave any differently.

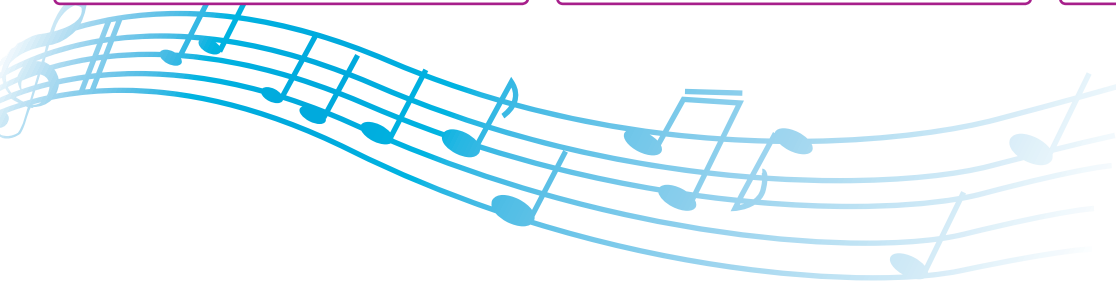
Familiarise yourself with the parental controls, look at the history files on your web browser and talk to your children about what they see and do.

Remember this is about parenting, not about knowing the ins and outs of various technologies.

## Set ground rules

Make sure your family has some clear do's and don'ts when using the internet. Set boundaries and time limits and encourage good behaviour online – e.g.

- no cyberbullying
- no sharing of personal information
- no arranging to meet strangers.



## Guard private information

Keep your family information private, think before you share information online and explain why this is important to your child.

Remember that once something goes public, it can be extremely difficult to undo it.

## Report abuse

As well as raising awareness about staying safe and behaving responsibly, you also need to be ready to act if your child feels uncomfortable with anything they experience online. Give them ways of letting you or another trusted adult know if they are having a problem. Ensure they know about the 'report abuse' button on the sites they visit, what other steps they can take to block unwanted messages or what to do if they discover a site that makes them feel uncomfortable.

Report abuse via:  
**[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)**

## Find more useful parental information online:

[www.Direct.gov.uk](http://www.Direct.gov.uk)  
[www.childnet-int.org/kia/parents](http://www.childnet-int.org/kia/parents)  
[www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/)  
[www.parentscentre.gov.uk/usingcomputersandtheinternet](http://www.parentscentre.gov.uk/usingcomputersandtheinternet)  
[www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/help/safesurfing](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/help/safesurfing)



# Here's how... to teach your child to use online content responsibly

The internet offers unlimited resources to support your child's learning – from written information to images to music. It is important, however, that they understand how to use the content they find responsibly.

Work through the ideas on this card to talk about using online content for school work and leisure...

## Doing homework

Discuss why copying and pasting other people's work off the internet is:

- a) tempting
- b) wrong.

Talk about the difference between research and copying off websites.

### Do together:

- Take a page that interests you from the internet
- Rewrite it in your own words and state where you got the information or ideas.

## Picture this

Ask your child to show you how to copy and paste an image from the internet to illustrate a piece of class work.

Have a go yourself.

### Do together:

- Go back to the page where you found the image
- What does it say about using the images ('copyright')?
- If in doubt, discuss what you should do.

## Downloading and sharing

Find out what your child's attitude is towards:

- downloading music, movies images etc.
- sharing stuff with friends without paying for it.

### Do together:

- Discuss why shoplifting or receiving stolen goods is wrong
- Ask your child to compare this with illegal downloading/sharing.





# Here's how to search smartly for information

With literally billions of pages of information, the internet can sometimes appear overwhelming. So it's important to help your children understand how best to find the information they want so they don't waste time or become frustrated.

Everyone in the family can improve their online searching skills. Try out the top tips overleaf.  
Or pop into a local library or a UK online centre to ask for help in improving your skills...

## 1. Got an address? Use it!

Save yourself lots of time. If you have the address of a specific site you want to visit, type it in carefully in the address bar. Your children's school may have a list of recommended sites – just ask.

## 2. Choose a search engine

The three most popular are:

[www.google.co.uk](http://www.google.co.uk)

[www.yahoo.co.uk](http://www.yahoo.co.uk)

[www.live.com](http://www.live.com)

Search engines designed specifically for young children include:

[www.askkids.com](http://www.askkids.com)

[www.kids.yahoo.com](http://www.kids.yahoo.com)

Try searching for the same thing and see what different results come back from each provider. Set the 'safe search' preferences to suit your child's age and level of maturity.

## 3. Know what to ask

Choosing the right search term makes a big difference. So instead of just **Egypt**, type in **Egypt pyramids**.

You don't need full sentences – just words. In fact, the more, the better!

## 4. Narrow your search

Try using quotation marks to find exactly what you want, e.g. **"geography revision sites"**. You can also use a minus sign to exclude areas. For example, if you want to know about battleships for a history project but don't want to know about the game battleships: search for **battleships -games** (notice no space between minus and games!)

## 5. Choose your country

Most search engines will let you search for 'UK results only'. Click on this option if you want to cut out information from sites in other countries.

## 6. Keep a track of good sites

When you're on a site you like, you can 'bookmark' or save it as a 'favourite' so you can find it quickly again.

Simply click on 'favourites' or 'bookmarks' on the menu and follow the on-screen instructions.



# Here's how to evaluate information online

The internet is an instant source of valuable information on subjects children study, or take an interest in. It is impossible, however, to ensure everything on the internet is good quality.

Some sites contain information that is misleading, biased, badly written or just wrong. As a parent or carer, you can play an important role in helping your children develop skills to discriminate between trustworthy and untrustworthy sites. Start with the questions overleaf...



## 1. Who owns the website?

Good websites will have a section called 'about us' or something similar, explaining who owns the site and what their intentions are.

Choose a site and help your child look for the owner. Discuss whether you think they will be a reliable source of information or if they might be trying to sway the reader's opinions.

Look for clues in the web address:

**.com** and **.co** usually means commercial

**.gov** indicates a government site

**.ac** and **.edu** is a college or university site

**.org** is used by non-profit organisations.

## 2. Is the information correct?

How do you know? You can never be absolutely certain that what you are reading on the internet is accurate or truthful. It's up to you to decide – here's how...

## 3. Have you compared it?

Use more than one source of information. Compare what they say. If they contradict each other at least one of them must be wrong. Compare some more.

## 4. Facts or opinions?

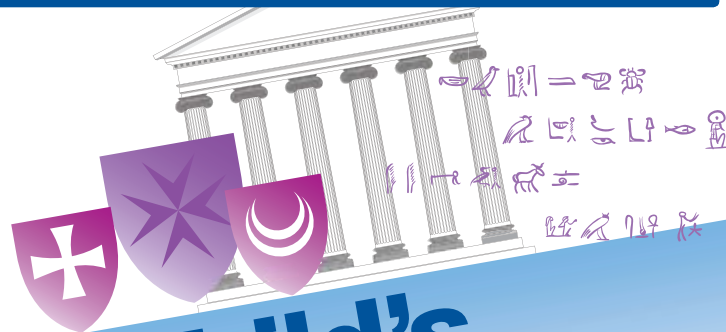
If someone makes a claim, are they offering any facts or sources to back it up?

## 5. Who do you trust?

Having studied the different sites, who do you trust most?

Still not sure? It might be best to stick with organisations you already know and trust from experience. Just look them up online to see what information they have on your subject.





# Here's how... to expand your child's interests

Encouraging your children to follow up their favourite hobbies and interests with online activities has several benefits.

They can:

- deepen their understanding and enjoyment of their favourite things
- improve their reading, writing, communication and social skills
- sharpen their ability to find, understand and evaluate information
- find and communicate with others who share their interests, all in one go!

## Research interests

Scouts or brownies?

- Check out the official website of whatever you're into.

Football fan?

- Find football-themed educational games on **TheFA.com**

Favourite TV channel or programme?

- Kids TV websites have lots of educational games too.

## Follow (or join in) a big event

Many national and international events – from sporting events to movie releases to charity fundraisers – are covered extensively online.

- Choose a current hot topic.
- Compare different sites.
- See who's saying what.
- See how you can join in online, but be careful about giving away private information.

## Read all about it

Who's your favourite author?

- Look them up online.

Many children's authors have official websites with background information on their lives, their books and what they're planning next.

Discover all sorts of things you never knew!

## Never be bored again!

The ParentsCentre website has lots of ideas about fun sites to visit and things to do in the holidays.

Log on to **[www.parentscentre.gov.uk](http://www.parentscentre.gov.uk)** and explore the 'Just for Fun' section

Local authority websites and online editions of local newspapers also have 'what's on' listings. Check out yours.

King Edward the Confessor 1042-1066 • King Harold Godwinson 1066-1069

William I the Conqueror 1066-1087 • King William II Rufus 1087-1100 • King Henry I 1100-1135





Guten Tag Buenos dias Buongiorno

# Here's how to visit a museum without leaving home

You know the excitement and educational value of visiting museums and how they can inspire young minds. But it isn't always possible to go and visit them in person. Thanks to the internet, you and your children can now enjoy the latest activities from the UK's leading museums without leaving home. Let us show you how with [www.show.me.uk](http://www.show.me.uk)

## Learn together

Take a look at the parents' section of **www.show.me.uk** and find stacks of inspiration on a huge range of topics – from pre-history to the present day.

Complete some activities with your children and discover the pleasure of learning together.

## School's out

Whether your child's into ancient Egypt or futuristic worlds, **www.show.me.uk** has a wealth of learning games linked to children's favourite topics.

The site also encourages children to send in their comments and artwork for the Show and Tell gallery.

## Visit together

If you find time to go and visit an attraction with your children, **www.show.me.uk** has lists and links to museums and galleries nationwide.

Use your search skills to find a particular museum or gallery.

Plan a trip with your child using websites for online timetables, maps and route finders.



# Here's how to make the most of online communities

Online communities offer children varied opportunities for developing knowledge and interests as well as important social and communication skills.

As with most things in life, however, children need to behave appropriately, be aware of potential issues and know how to deal with them. This card gives you a quick overview...

## Chat

A 'chat room' is a virtual meeting place where people can meet, discuss and share common interests – from study groups to music and more.

- Moderated chat is where a trained web person keeps an eye on what's being said.
- Children chatting without a moderator present should take extra care in who they talk to and what they talk about.

## IM (instant messaging)

IM is similar to chat, but it is private, not moderated. On certain services, groups of friends ('buddies') can join in IM discussions.

- It's a quick and effective method of communicating.
- Children using IM for 1:1 chats need to be aware of the dangers of chatting with people they've only ever met online.

## Messages boards, blogs and wikis

These are similar to email, but instead of sending a message to an individual, it's posted on the internet so anyone can read it.

- Great for researching and following debates on topics.
- The best sites are moderated.
- Children need to show respect in their postings.

## Social learning networks

Social networking sites like Facebook and MySpace help you find and make friends and communicate in creative ways with all sorts of people.

- **[www.SuperClubsPlus.com](http://www.SuperClubsPlus.com)** is a subscription-based social learning network suitable for primary children.
- **[www.GoldStarCafe.net](http://www.GoldStarCafe.net)** is a protected online learning community for 11–14-year-olds.
- Although many sites have an age limit of 13+, many younger children lie about their age.

## Virtual worlds

There are a number of virtual worlds for children, where they can create 3D characters (“avatars”) and interact with others.

- Virtual worlds can aid social, communication and negotiation skills.
- **[www.clubpenguin.com](http://www.clubpenguin.com)** and **[www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/adventurerock](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/adventurerock)** are appropriate for children aged 6–14.

## Cyberbullying

Bullying can occur on online spaces and by mobile phone.

- **[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)** has advice for parents and children on what to do about cyberbullying.
- Children need to know not to join in with anything that sets out deliberately to upset someone.

