# Windsor Park C of E (C) Middle School

# e-Safety

The **Internet** changes the way we can research and communicate in a very powerful way – but there is a dark side and young people must be aware of it and know how to protect themselves.  As a parent, you need to know what the issues are and how best to deal with them.

It is really important to involve your children in the development of your Family **Internet** Agreement, just as you would explain to them why it is necessary to wear a seat belt in the car or why they should not speak to strangers in a park.

e-Safety is an important part of keeping children safe at Windsor Park Middle School.  We have extensive security measures in place in school, which are monitored both internally and externally, to help safeguard students from potential dangers or unsuitable material.  Any e-Safety incidents are recorded and managed in accordance with our e-Safety Policy.  e-Safety is taught to all students explaining and demonstrating how to stay safe and behave appropriately online.

We can only be successful in keeping students safe online if we work with parents to ensure the e-Safety message is consistent.  It is important that parents speak to their children about how they can keep safe and behave appropriately online.

**It is essential to be realistic – banning the internet or technology will not work and it often makes a child less likely to report a problem.  Education around safe use is essential.**


## Search engines

Please note that no search engine is ever 100% safe, but below provides some links to some "safer" search engines:

**Research searching**

[nICE](#)

[CBBC](#)

[Kids Yahoo](#)

Google offers a safer search option for children searching on the Internet.

**Image searching**

[Pics4Learning](#)

[picsearch](picsearch)

**Gaming**

When children are accessing games via Xbox LIVE, privacy settings can be set up.

# Websites for more information

CEOP (The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) delivers a multi-agency service dedicated to tackling the abuse and exploitation of children in the real and 'e' world. Often it is referred to as an online 999. By clicking on the button, young people and parents can get advice on a range of issues such as viruses, hacking and dealing with bullying online.

Vodafone have produced a Digital Parenting Magazine which informs parents about the various technologies children are accessing today. There is information on Facebook settings, Xbox360 settings, Blackberry controls, jargon busting and many more 'How to Guides'. Well worth a read!

The "Thinkuknow" website is brought to you by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) centre.

Kidsmart gives you lots of advice on how to stay safe online.

**New e-Safety Portal for Parents and Schools – Internet Matters.**



Internet Matters is a new online portal designed for parents to access simple, easy and practical advice about online safety for their children, right through from pre-school to teens. It provides tips on protecting children from online grooming, cyberbullying, privacy and identity theft and inappropriate content. Internet Matters is a not-for profit organisation set up by BT, Sky, TalkTalk and Virgin Media.

## <u>Guide to Family Internet Access</u>

The content of each family's Agreement will vary widely according to the ages of your children – the following covers the main points which need to be considered.

**First things first…**

- Keep **Internet**-connected computers in a communal area of your home.
- Become an **Internet** user yourself.

**Acceptable use**

- Be clear about what you consider to be unacceptable information.
- Be clear about what is unacceptable communication.
- Never download unknown files.
- Agree, if necessary, who can use the **Internet** and when.
- Agree how long each person can be on-line.
- Consider whether you want your Agreement to apply to visiting friends and family.

**Personal Safety**

- Emphasise what you have already taught your children about 'Stranger Danger'.
- Explain that passwords, addresses, PIN numbers, credit card details, phone and e-mail details are all private and should NEVER be given to anyone.
- Ensure your child knows NEVER to arrange to meet anyone met via the **Internet**, because not everyone is who they say they are.
- If your child has his/her own e-mail address it is best if it does not give any indication of their age or gender.

- Find child-friendly chatrooms with full-time trained moderators for your children to use.
- Encourage your child to know that is it safe to tell you about anything found via the **Internet.**

**What direct action can you take?**

- Contact your **Internet** Service Provider **(ISP)** and find out what child-safety measures they offer, if any, and how to use them.
- Choose **software** to protect against inappropriate **Internet** access.
- If you or your child finds any inappropriate content or are subjected to any inappropriate contacts by strangers on-line then you should report it to http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/
- Contact the **Internet** Watch Foundation via their **web site** at http://www.internetwatch.org.uk/ in case of possible illegal material.

**The issues covered on this page are obviously worrying.  However, it is important to keep these things in perspective.**

**Whilst the Internet introduces new potential dangers it also brings some really fantastic benefits to children and their learning which need to be balanced against the possible risks.  The points covered by this Agreement are not necessarily going to affect your child directly, but they are real risks for which your family needs to be prepared.**