eSafety Advice for Parents

The internet and related technologies, including mobile phones, games consoles and social networks are becoming increasingly important in the daily lives of our children and have many positive benefits. They can be used both educationally and socially and are becoming part of a child's identity. Socially our children often use the internet for entertainment, interaction, and communication with 'friends'. Access to the internet can take place anywhere and at anytime so we need to make sure our children are able to use the internet safely. Many children are unaware of the risks for example by having many online friends (who could be strangers), uploading inappropriate images, viewing unsuitable content or sharing too much personal information.

In school the Hertfordshire Grid for Learning provides for a safe and secure online environment for children in Hertfordshire LA schools. Information about setting up filtering in your own home can be found below. Some of the advice about online safety is common sense but it's also important that parents and carers know how to use the technology and be aware of how their children are using the internet.

Information about online safety issues and how to **'Stay Safe'** can be found on the websites below. This is just a sample of websites that can provide parents with support and information. Once parents and carers have the background knowledge and understanding of eSafety they can decide what is right for their family.

www.childnet.com - A non-profit making organisation working directly with children, parents and teachers to ensure that the issues of online child protection and children's safe and positive use of the internet are addressed. Childnet International produce an online CD guide specifically for parents KnowITAll - http://www.childnet.com/resources/kia/

www.thinkuknow.co.uk - The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre has set up its own educational website which has been designed and written specifically for children, young people, teachers, parents and carers.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/ The BBC Webwise is a beginner's guide to using the internet. There is a good section on children's online safety.

http://www.internetmatters.org This website contains lots of information about staying safe online, with tips about games, social networking, mobile technology and more.

http://www.getsafeonline.org/ A beginners guide to using the Internet safety, including a quiz and some video tutorials about how to 'stay safe' on-line.

http://www.thegrid.org.uk/eservices/safety/index.shtml

www.kidsmart.org.uk/ - Kidsmart is an award winning internet safety website for parents and those working with children. It has been developed by the children's internet charity Childnet International and has excellent information on many of the technologies used by children, with guidance on how to 'stay safe' online.

www.bullying.co.uk - One in five young people have experienced bullying by text message or via email. This web site gives advice for children and parents on bullying.

http://www.chatdanger.com/ - This website is about the potential dangers with interactive services online like chat, IM, online games, email and on mobiles. It provides information, advice, true stories and games. The resource page also contains a number of links to other useful websites.

http://parents.vodafone.com/ - Vodafone have developed this website in conjunction with mumsnet. It is very accessible and provides information and guidance to parents with understanding their child's digital world and get more involved. There is even an on-line test to see how much you know!

<u>Information on Parental Controls for your home broadband</u>

Talk Talk: http://sales.talktalk.co.uk/product/homesafe
Sky: http://www.sky.com/products/broadband-talk/sky-broadband-shield/features/index.html
Virgin Media: http://store.virginmedia.com/discover/broadband/security/web-safe.html
BT: http://www.productsandservices.bt.com/products/manage-broadband-extras/

The internet is an exciting and fun place for adults and children to use and explore educationally and socially. The challenge for parents, carers and teachers is to make sure our children are aware and understand how to be safe when using the internet and related technologies.

Some Key Advice for Children
- **Be nice online.**
- **Keep your personal details private.**
- **ThinkB4Upost, send or forward.**
- **Do not share your password with others.**
- **Don't arrange up with someone you only know online, and tell a trusted adult if someone asks.**
- **Be careful who you webcam with.**
- **Know how to keep yourself safe**.
- **Don't open an attachment unless you are 100% sure it is safe.**
- **Tell a trusted adult if anything happens online that worries or upsets you.**