STAYING safe online

The internet can be a very useful tool for your child when doing homework and staying in touch with friends and family.

However, keeping them safe online can be a challenge.

This leaflet offers some basic suggestions and advice to help.

Advice for parents

- Talk to your child and listen to what they are saying to you
- Explore the internet together, taking an interest in the websites they use and enjoy. Talking to them about what they do online gives you the chance to discuss safe behaviour
- Agree a list of websites, games and apps that they can access
- Encourage children to question what they read online, not just take it at face value
- Explain how pictures, videos and comments are difficult to remove from the internet, and once posted can be shared widely with people they don't know
- Talk about using strong passwords to protect online accounts, and how important it is to keep passwords safe
- Agree that you can look at your child's phone and other devices from time to time
- Agree to take regular breaks away from the screen and do something different
- Be aware that other devices such as mobile phones and tablets also need to be supervised appropriately, considering your child's age and ability
- Encourage them to tell you if something they see online upsets them
- Talk to them about the age ratings on apps, websites, games and videos. Make sure both of you understand what they mean and their value
- Set up parental controls on all internet enabled devices (including phones, tablets, game consoles and smart TVs)

Advice for children

- Don't give out your address, phone number, email address or which school you attend
- Check privacy settings on all social media sites and devices regularly
- Don't arrange to meet an online friend in the real world without a parent being with you
- Don't accept emails, friend requests/ messages or files from people you don't know
- Think before you post anything on social media
- Never post anything that is hurtful or rude. Remember the viewer can't see a cheeky grin, so won't know it's meant to be funny
- Don't post pictures of yourself or others online: particularly any pictures that your parents would consider to be inappropriate
- Think how what you are posting could be seen by any future employer
- Don't reply to upsetting or hurtful messages
- If something upsets you, block or unfriend the person who sent it
- Remember that what you are sharing with your friends on social media may also be shared by their friends, and you never know where it may end up
- Learn from your mistakes

Tips for parents if problems do arise

- Don't panic or get angry with your child
- Use report buttons on websites and social media sites
- Use Netaware to inform social media sites
- Report concerns to appropriate support agencies such as the police, CEOP, Parent Port or Internet Watch Foundation *(See contact details on the back of this leaflet)*
- Talk to your child's teachers
- Keep as much evidence as possible

Staying safe in Kent Libraries

Visitors to Kent Libraries can take advantage of free WiFi and free computers. Users are required to abide by our Acceptable Internet Use Policy to keep everyone safe online. The policy includes the following features:

- Children and young people under the age of 16 need parental permission to use library computers
- Age appropriate filtering software operates in all libraries
- KCC cannot guarantee that children will not be exposed to illegal or harmful material, and encourages parents and guardians to be vigilant
- Under certain circumstances, we may monitor the sites visited during a session, and may also pass personal information to law enforcement authorities where appropriate, and compatible with data protection legislation.
- Kent libraries can withdraw your right to use the public access computers, and take legal action if considered necessary.

Useful contacts:

CHILD EXPLOITATION AND ONLINE PROTECTION CENTRE
www.ceop.police.uk

INTERNET WATCH FOUNDATION
www.iwf.org.uk

CHILDLINE
www.childline.org.uk
Telephone: 0800 1111

PARENT PORT
www.parentport.org.uk

SAFER INTERNET
www.saferinternet.org.uk

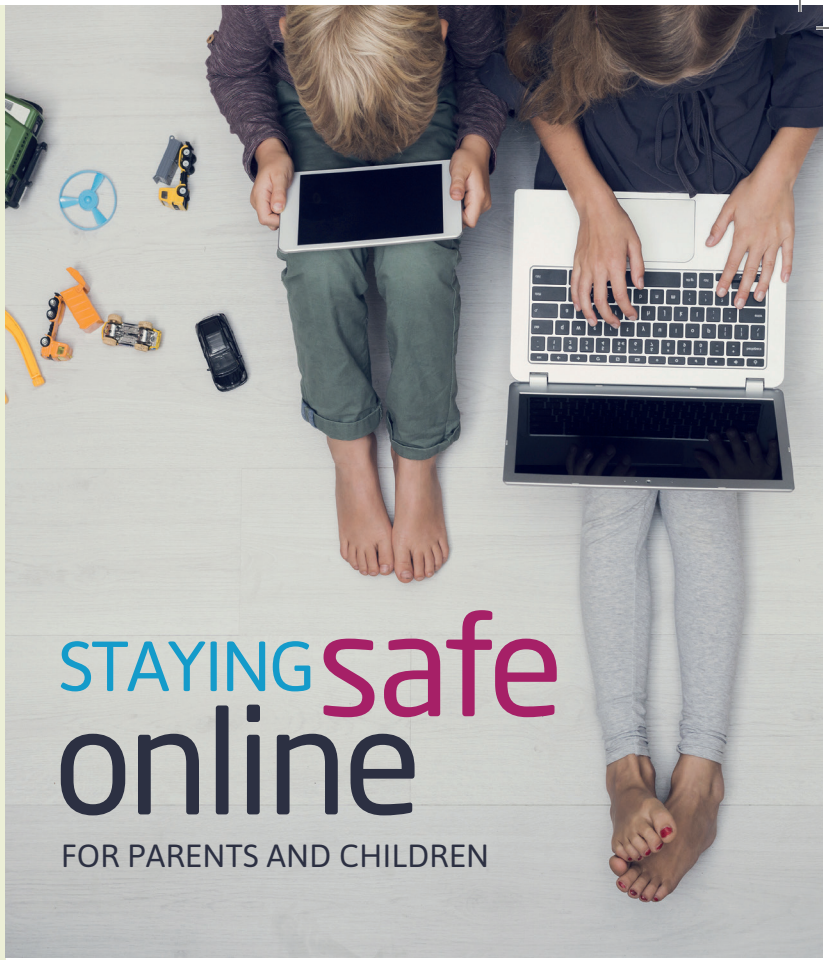
NSPCC NETAWARE
www.net-aware.org.uk
Online safety helpline:
0808 800 5002

VICTIM SUPPORT
www.victimsupport.org.uk
Telephone: 0808 1689111

INTERNET MATTERS
www.internetmatters.org

PARENT INFO
www.parentinfo.org

CHILDNET
www.childnet.com



kent.gov.uk/libs
03000 413131

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