

Online Safety Tips for Parents

<p>Be Aware</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Install filters to protect your child from inappropriate websites.• Keep tabs on your child's internet use. Make sure you know what sites your child visits, how much time he or she spends on them, and whom your child is communicating with.	<p>Be Curious</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set limits for screen time to have a balance with real world connections.• Put the family computer in a public place in your home, such as a kitchen or family room, to encourage an open dialogue and discourage unwanted online behaviour.• Consider not allowing your child to have any connected devices, such as a Smartphone, laptop computer, or tablet, in private areas of your home, like a bedroom or bathroom.	<p>Be Engaged</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep the conversations going. Start talking with your child at an early age about online use and continue the dialogue as your child gets older.• Know any passwords that your child uses, and explain that they shouldn't be shared with friends
<p>Advice for your child 10-12yrs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set some boundaries for your child before they get their first 'connected device' (mobile, tablet, laptop or games console). Once they have it, it can be more difficult to change the way they use it or the settings.• Tell your child that it's very important to keep phones and other devices secure and well hidden when they're not at home, to minimise the risk of theft or loss.• Discuss with your child what is safe and appropriate to post and share online. Written comments, photos and videos all form part of their 'digital footprint' and could be seen by anyone and available on the internet forever, even if it is subsequently deleted.• Talk to your child about the kind of content they see online. They might be looking for information about their changing bodies and exploring relationships. They also need to understand the importance of not sending other people - whoever they are - pictures of themselves naked.• Remember that services like Facebook and YouTube have a minimum age limit of 13 for a reason. Don't bow to pressure, talk to other parents and their school to make sure everyone is in agreement.• Explain to your child that being online doesn't give them anonymity or protection, and that they shouldn't do anything online that they wouldn't do face-to-face.		