

# Internet safety

## The Internet

The Internet is a global, decentralized network of computers taking advantage of common protocols permitting the transfer of information. No individual, company or government controls the Internet.

## Risks

There are many risks and security issues involving the use of the Internet. Children and their parents should be most concerned about:

Viewing inappropriate material

Physical molestation

Harassment

Frauds and Scams

## Tips for kids

- NEVER give out any personal information such as your address, telephone number, parents' place of work or their phone number, or the name and location of your school
- NEVER agree to get together with someone you 'meet' online without first checking with your parents
- NEVER send anyone your picture - Don't accept any pictures either
- NEVER respond to any messages that make you feel uncomfortable
- NEVER lose your common sense while online - Remember, you are talking to a stranger. The people you are talking to may not be who they say they are
- NEVER send an insulting or rude message to anyone online. 'Flaming' is not good 'Netiquette'
- Use a 'code name'
- Report any harassment or inappropriate messages to your online service and to the Police
- Set your browser to say NO to 'cookies'

## Tips for parents

- Learn about what your child is doing on the Internet - Know what Web Sites they are visiting, know what type of chat rooms, e-mail, and messages your child is involved in online
- Find out about Filtering Software that is available to block out objectionable material
- Set reasonable guidelines for computer use by your children - monitor the amount of time spent on the computer and when
- Keep computer usage as a family activity by putting the computer in a family room rather than in the child's bedroom
- Ensure your child does not give out personal information. Have them use a 'code name'
- Be wary of any offers that involve your child going to a meeting or having someone visit your home - Remember that people may not be who they seem
- Create a password for your computer that is hard to guess but easy to remember and change it often
- Monitor your credit card bills

Report any suspicious activity to the Police and ask for assistance.

For more Internet safety tips, please visit [Be Web Aware](#).