

Internet safety advice for parents and guardians.

The Internet is a valuable learning tool which is helpful with homework and chat rooms are increasingly popular with children wishing to converse each other and maintain long distance friendships.

Associated with this use are certain risks for children:

- internet bullying,
- contact by paedophiles.

The school strongly recommends certain measures for parents to reduce these risks to your children. There are a few steps that can be taken very easily:

- Discuss the risks with your children in a manner that alerts them, but does not cause undue alarm.
- Install a Net Nanny program which prevents people from accessing inappropriate material on the Internet.
- Install a Spam Filter.
- Place your computer in a central area of your house.
- When you know that your child is using the computer, check in on them regularly: know what they are doing on it.
- Limit the time that children to spend on the Internet.
- Avoid or at least restrict the use of a web camera.
- If you know that you child is in regular contact with someone who they have never met, talk with them about this contact.
- Recommend that your child to uses 'safe' chat web sites (like MySpace.com).

For further information the BBC provides a useful guide for parents and students. The web site is <http://www.bbc.co.uk/chatguide/> .

Play safe, stay safe!