Keep your child safe this summer

Parents

Over the summer most children will spend at least some of their time using the internet for entertainment, communication and even school work. In school we use a range of strategies to keep your child safe online from formal rules through to specific eSafety lessons.

The tips below help your child to continue to be safe on the internet while still having fun.

Chat
Spend time finding out what your child is doing online. What websites do they like to visit? Who do they talk to online?

Limit
Set sensible limits for time spent online, the internet can very easily become all-consuming for children.

Tools
Take advantage of free tools such as the Google SafeSearch facility or Youtube filtering to help restrict access. Most consoles and mobile devices offer some form of parental control.

Rules
Consider writing a family agreement. Allow your child to identify the issues and talk through how they can keep themselves safe. Put this on display and refer to it often.

Look
Take time to drop in and look at what your child is doing online. Peer over their shoulder and don't be afraid to be nosey. Remember that phones and other handled devices often go online too.

Filter
The four major internet providers now offer filtering as part of their package. This will block certain sites preventing your child from visiting some inappropriate content. For further information visit www.internetmatters.org

Learn
Visit www.thinkuknow.co.uk to find out some of the key issues about internet safety. As parents we have a duty to be aware of the pitfalls and problems.

Report
Explain to your child what to do if they make a mistake online or see something upsetting. Sometimes children will find inappropriate things on the internet and it's vital that they know they can tell you without fear of punishment.

Privacy
Talk to your child about private information that shouldn't be shared such as full name, address, telephone numbers, school name and passwords. Ensure that they know about privacy settings on any websites they register on.

Share
Explain to your child what to do if they make a mistake online or see something upsetting. Sometimes children will find inappropriate things on the internet and it's vital that they know they can tell you without fear of punishment.