Therefore...

1. Be involved in your child's online life.

2. Keep up-to-date with your child's development online. Be inquisitive and interested in the new gadgets and sites that your child is using.

3. Set boundaries in the online world just as you would in the real world.

4. Emphasise that not everyone is who they say they are.

5. Know what to do if something goes wrong.

Online Reputation

Young people are growing up online and may be posting information which in the past would have been written in their secret

diary. These thoughts, opinions and activities provide a window to their lives at a time when jobs and responsibility might be far from their minds. The internet provides

permanent records of these high and lows which, if not controlled carefully, may be accessible to future employers, universities and friends.

Further Information

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

Gives advice and guidance for parents on new technologies and safe use of the Internet for their children, provided by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre.

www.childnet-int.org

A children's internet charity committed to helping make the internet a safe place for children, this provides safety advice, projects, resources and a section for children.

www.iwf.org.uk

The only recognised organization in the UK operating an internet 'hotline' for the public and IT professionals to report their exposure to potentially illegal content online.

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INTERNET SAFETY

SAFE

What is my Child doing Online?

Purely for Parents

What are the risks to children and young people online?

- Paedophiles using the Internet to meet young people
- People lying to others online
- Bullying using the Internet
- Seeing sexually explicit and inappropriate pictures
- Viruses and pop-ups

Should I move the computer from the bedroom?

If there is a computer in the bedroom it should be moved to a family room, i.e. a living room or dining room.

This encourages children to make their online behaviour a family activity and can encourage them to be less secretive.

Children are less likely to engage in risky behaviour if they know their parents/carers are able to view their screens and this is especially relevant if children are communicating via webcams. Smart phones should be left with their parents/guardians before bed time.

Should we as parents report all our concerns?

If you have concerns that your child has been engaged online by someone behaving suspiciously, you should speak to your child first.

Alternatively, you can speak to your local police; they will be able to begin an investigation if required and, if necessary, they will approach the Child

Exploitation and Online Protection Centre for

further assistance.

What is Online Grooming?

Often, adults who want to engage children in sexual acts, or talk to them for sexual gratification will seek out young people who desire friendship.

They will often use a number of grooming techniques including building trust with the child, which can lead to more intimate forms of communication, such as the child sending photographs of him/herself.

How would I know if my child was being groomed?

There is no way of knowing without speaking to your child but there are behaviours to look out for:

- Excessive use of the computer
- Aggressive behaviour regarding Internet usage
- Secretive behaviour
- Change in use of sexual language

If you are concerned, talk to your child and review the sites they have been visiting.

What filtering software should I use?

Filtering software is not 100% effective in keeping inappropriate content from your computer. However, it is a good idea to use it in conjunction with CEOP safety advice. Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have their own filtering software and these should be used also. There are a number of different websites that you can use to get filtering software for your computers. Have a look at www.getnetwise.org for a list of the best products available.