Tips that can help you to support your child using the internet safely and securely.

Use their websites

Go on the websites and social media platforms that your child is using and find out what they are all about. If you understand what they're up to online, you will be able to better educate and advise.

Talk to your child about what they are up to online

Be a part of their online life; involve the whole family and show an interest.

Find out what sites they visit and what they like about them.

If they know you understand, they are more likely to come to you if they have any problems.

Watch *ThinkUKnow* films and cartoons with your child

The *ThinkUKnow* website www.thinkuknow.co.uk has films, games and advice for children from 5-16 years of age. We use these resources in school to support our Online Safety teaching and learning. They are useful to help you find out what your child already knows.

Online Checklist

- ✓ **I have asked my child to show me sites they use.**

- ✓ **I have asked my child to set their profile settings to private**

- ✓ **I have asked my child about their online friends**

- ✓ **I have set appropriate parental controls on my child's computer, mobile and games console**

- ✓ **My child has agreed to tell me if they are worried about something online**

- ✓ **I know where to get help if I'm concerned about my child**

Where to go for more information

Useful Websites
www.thinkuknow.co.uk
www.kidsmart.org.uk
www.saferinternet.org
www.vodafone.com/contents/parents.html
www.childnet.com
www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre

Wentworth
Primary School

Online Safety Guidance for Parents

CLICK CEOP
Internet Safety

Encourage your child to go online and explore safely

There is a wealth of age appropriate sites online for you child. Encourage them to use sites which are fun, educational and that will help them develop online skills.

Keep up-to-date with your child's development online

Children grow in confidence and learn new skills daily. It is important that as your child learns more, so do you.

Set boundaries in the online world, just as you do in the real world

Think about what they might see, what they share, who they talk to and how long they spend online. It is important to discuss boundaries at a young age to develop the tools and skills children need to enjoy their time online.

Make sure children know to never give out personal information, as even sites designed for younger children, can allow them to 'chat' to strangers.

Discuss what you child does if they see something that is inappropriate or worrying to them. You may have set up all the correct parental controls, but your child could be accessing the online world at a friend's house.

Keep all equipment that connects to the internet in a family space

It is important to keep internet use in family areas, so that you can see the sites you child is using and be there for them if the stumble across something they should not see. Younger children should only use the internet when they are in a family area, so you can keep an eye on what they are doing and how they are using it. As they get older they will want more privacy, but it's important to stay interested and engaged with what they are doing online.

Know what connects to the internet and how

Nowadays, even the TV connects to the internet. Make sure you are aware of which devices, that your child uses, connect to the internet, such as their phone or games console. Also, find out how they are accessing the internet – is it your password protected connection, a neighbour's wifi or an unsecure public network. This will affect whether the safety settings that you set are being applied.

Use parental controls on devices that link to the internet

Set parental controls on all devices children use that access the internet, such as the TV, laptop, computer, tablet, mobile phone and games console. Parental controls are not just about locking and blocking, they are tools to help you set up appropriate boundaries online as your child grows and develops. They are not the answer to your child's online safety, but they are a good start. They are not as difficult to install as you might think. Service providers are working hard to make them simple, effective and user friendly.

Social networking

Many social network sites, such as Facebook, have a minimum age requirement on them of 13. This is to protect children. Use the social media sites your child is using. Check that the content is appropriate and that they are old enough.

Support your child

We all make mistakes, particularly when we are young. Be approachable. Make sure your children know they can talk to you if something goes wrong and that you know what to do if it does.

Most sites now have 'report abuse' buttons where you can report inappropriate behaviour.

Our children are Digital Natives.

They are so at home with technology, it's like an extension of themselves. The positives of technology far outweigh the negatives. The internet offers amazing opportunities for learning, connecting, creating and collaborating.

While it might be tempting to ban internet access, this imply makes children more vulnerable when they 'go it alone'.

The Internet

The internet is a fantastic resource that our children are already using as a normal part of their everyday life. However, it is important that we protect them as they explore this virtual world. Older children are developing ways of using the internet that can seem baffling, even to parents who consider themselves to be proficient users.

Establishing ways of discussing internet safety, setting guidelines and strategies for when things go wrong have never been more important.