St Philip's Marsh Nursery School

Parents' guide to Basic Internet Safety

at home

At St Philip's Marsh Nursery School children's safety is at the heart of everything we do and this includes keeping children safe when they are using computers or the internet.

We have prepared this simple guide to help you and your children stay safe.

Some of the information in this guide is aimed at older children as we hope it will continue to be useful as your children develop their use of computers and the internet.

E-safety for Parents - Children aged 2 to 4

At this age children start interacting with the computer and technology in the presence of a parent or sibling. There are numerous activities and sites that are likely to be appropriate for this age group but, in most cases, it makes sense for the parent and child to be exploring together. This is not just a safety issue, but also a way to ensure that the child has a pleasant experience and to help build bonds between the child and the older person who is surfing the Internet with them.

Starting at around age 3, some children can benefit by having a bit more independence so that they can explore, experience discoveries, and make mistakes on their own. That doesn't mean that they should be given free access. It's probably best for parents to choose the web sites the children visit and not let them leave those sites on their own. You don't necessarily need to stand over them or sit with them the entire time that they're in a known safe site.

In St Philip's Marsh Nursery School the two safe sites we allow the children to use are:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/ Aimed at pre-school children.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/ Aimed at primary school aged children.

These are full of age-appropriate games, activities and programs to engage the children and aid their learning.

Children aged *4 to about 7*

Children begin to explore on their own, but it's still important for parents to be in very close touch with their children as they explore the Net. When your child is at this age you should consider restricting their access only to sites that you have visited and feel are appropriate.

At this age it's important that children experience positive results from sites that can enhance their discovery. The issue here isn't so

much avoiding dangerous sites, but making sure they are visiting sites that don't frustrate them or lead them down blind alleys.

You could talk to your children about the sites they are using and make sure you feel they are appropriate for your child.

You could begin to talk to them about safe internet use and establish some simple guidelines.

It is a good idea to encourage children to

Think before they click

Children aged *7 to about 10:*

At this age you are probably encouraging your children to do a bit more exploring on their own, but that doesn't mean that you are not close at hand. Just as you wouldn't send children at this age to a movie by themselves, it's important to be with them, or at least nearby, when they explore the Net.

For this age group, consider putting the computer in a kitchen area, family room, den, or other areas where the child has access to an adult's support while using the computer. That way, they can be "independent" but not alone and you can monitor not only what they are engaged with online, but also how long they are on the computer.

Children need variety, and it's not a good idea for them to be spending all of their time on any single activity. One way to deal with this might be through the use of a software [time-limiting tool](#).

It's even important to be sure that they are varying what they do online. Encourage them to explore a variety of safe Web sites, not just one or two of their favourites.

Also, consider using a filtering program which are explained here; http://kids.getnetwise.org/tools/filters

You may wish to restrict them to sites that you locate via a child-safe search engine which are explained here; http://kids.getnetwise.org/tools/kidengines

Another option for this age group is a child-friendly browser which are explained here;
http://kids.getnetwise.org/tools/kidbrowsers

Children aged *10 to about 12:*

During this pre-teen period, many children want to experience even more independence. If children aren't already doing so, this is a time when they should start using the Internet to help with schoolwork and, perhaps, discover resources for their hobbies, sports activities, and other interests.

It's important at this age to begin to emphasise the concept of credibility. Kids need to understand that not everything they see on the Internet is true or valuable, just as not all advice they get from their peers is valuable. A good way to illustrate this is for them to do a search for sites on subjects they know a lot about - favourite athletes or musicians, subjects they love in school, etc.

You should also keep an eye on not just about what kids see and do on the Internet, but how long they are online. Set limits on how often and how long kids can be online, and be sure that they are engaged in other activities such as sports, music, and book-reading.
Make sure they know how important it is to take screen breaks and try to make sure they are switched off at least 60 minutes before bed time.

Ensure you are talking to your children about their internet activity. Chat to them about what sites they are using, spend time with them while they are online so you understand the games they are playing and feel happy with the sites they are using.

Preparing for 12 and beyond:

Now is also the time for you to be planning for their future safe use. You may also like to make sure you understand some of the sites they will be coming into contact with soon. What are the current social networking trends? Make sure you know how to set the privacy settings on these sites so that you can talk with your child about this and make sure they are setting theirs to a level you will be happy with.

Make sure your children understand that what they put up online stays online until they take it down. This is something both children and adults alike should think about before they post something personal which may seem like a good idea at the time, but which may not be so funny when they begin applying for jobs / college / university. Ensure you know how to help you children remove content.

Make sure your children also understand that the same rules which you would teach them about respect and politeness still apply online. It can be easy to be swept along with behaviour which they would never engage with in the "real" world.

The other side of this is to make sure your children understand how to block and report anti-social and abusive behaviour of others which they are not happy with. All social media sites should have moderators and the ability to "block" someone. Ensure you know how to do this, or spend time with your child exploring these functions on the social media sites.

We hope this simple guide has been useful. We are not experts in this field, but we do want to promote safe computer and internet use to children and families.

Below are some useful links which will provide more detailed information to help you and your family stay safe online. While we have followed all the links and read the information we cannot take responsibility for any changes to content which has happened after the time of writing this.

Useful E-Safety links

Here are a couple of websites which offer resources and advice on safe internet use for children.

GetNetWise is a public service brought to you by Internet industry corporations and public interest organisations to help ensure that Internet users have safe, constructive, and educational or entertaining online experiences. http://www.getnetwise.org/

The UK Safer Internet Centre can find out the latest advice on how to use the internet and new technologies safely and responsibly. http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/

They have specific advice aimed at primary aged children http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/primary

Kidsmart have a great tool which is aimed at teachers working with this age, but can just as easily be used at home. http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/teachers/ks1/

Google Family safety centre This is full of tips and advice about how to use Google safely. Including details about **Google SafeSearch,** this is designed to screen sites that contain sexually explicit content and remove them from your search results. While no filter is 100% accurate, SafeSearch helps you to avoid content that you may prefer not to see or would rather your children did not stumble across. http://www.google.co.uk/goodtoknow/familysafety/

Facebook Safety This helps you understand how to set privacy settings and gives you some advice on keeping your teenages safe on facebook.
*the key here is to not let your children lie about their age! Facebook has automatic protections in place for under 18's.
http://www.facebook.com/safety/

YouTube Parental Controls - Introduction

After many requests from parents and educators, YouTube now has parental controls so you can implement YouTube Safe Search in your browser. In the past, you could only turn on safe search for Google's regular search results on their home page, or by using this site to conduct all searches, which guarantees that safe search for kids is always set to the highest filtering setting by default.

How to Activate Parental Controls for YouTube Safe Search

To implement the Parental Controls for YouTube, go to YouTube.com and scroll down to the bottom of the page....

You will see a reference to **Safety Mode** and it will say **Off** as seen below...

Safety mode: Off   Click the Off button to access Parental Control to turn on YouTube Safe Search.

Likewise, if you want to turn YouTube Safe Search **Off**, click the bottom what will now say "On"...

Safety mode: On
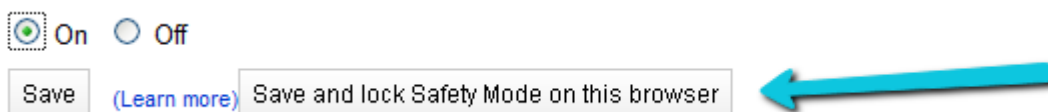
Locking YouTube Safe Search

As you will see, it's very easy to turn safe search on and off. Therefore, you may want to **lock it** in order to ensure it is always activated for all family members.

To Lock the Parental Control for YouTube, you will need a Google account. To open a free Google account, go to google.com and click "Sign In" in the top right hand corner of their main website. You will then see the option to create a new account.

Now return to YouTube and scroll down to the bottom of the page to the safety mode link as shown above.

After selecting the "On" button, you will see an option to Lock Safe Search...

⦿ On   ○ Off

Save   (Learn more)   Save and lock Safety Mode on this browser   ⬅
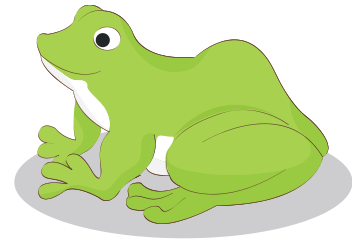
Select "Save and lock Safety Mode on this browser". You will then be required to sign in to your Google account if you have not already done so.

Once Safe Search for YouTube video search is Locked, you can now log out of your account. Unlocking safety mode on YouTube will require you to log into your account. This guarantees that no one else can deactivate the safety setting.

Important: If you have more than one browser on your computer... i.e.: Explorer, Firefox... etc... you will need to follow these steps for each browser. Below is a video that walks you through the process of implementing YouTube Parental Controls that were just explained.

You may also want to consider internet security software with full parental controls.

- Please note St Philips Marsh Nursery School understand that you follow these instructions at your own risk.

St Philip's Marsh Nursery School

Parents' guide to:

Basic Internet Safety at home