When we take our children out into the world, we ensure that they are as safe as possible. We expect them to wear a seatbelt in the car, we teach them road safety rules, we insist that they wear a safety helmet on their bike. We escort them to their clubs and even down to the corner shop.

We would never, ever take them to the other side of the world and let them wander around on their own talking to and arranging to meet people neither they nor we know. Or would we? Technology offers fantastic opportunities for children and the internet offers a vast and enriching world. What arrangements do you make to keep them safe when they are exploring this fascinating world?

This booklet is designed to help parents and carers take simple steps to keep their children safe whilst allowing them to enjoy all that the internet has to offer.

Parents in Partnership
Keeping Children Safe Online

Technology opens up new worlds for our children. We have to keep them safe when they are visiting.

Use parental controls to set limits on what your child can do and what websites they can see. Look at what they look at and decide if you approve

Let your child use a computer where you can see them. They should have nothing to hide but to keep everyone sane, invest in some headphones!

Adults Must Take Control

Need help? We are here to support and advise. Email, phone or call in and we'll do our best for you.

Children do not recognise risk and this brain function isn't fully developed until adulthood. Adults need to recognise risks for them.

Keeping Children Safe Online

Cyber-bullying is unacceptable. Always report incidents to the website concerned or even to the police if it persists

Teach your child what to do if they come across inappropriate content; close the page and tell you.

A good rule is, 'if you wouldn't allow it in the real world, don't allow it online'.

Social Networking
There are strict age rules for Social Networking sites. Many children lie to gain membership. Web Crawlers check out Social Networking sites like Bebo and Facebook looking for children and photos. Even if a child secures their SN site, it takes about ten minutes to find out all about them via their friends.

Be vigilant without being stifling. Trust your child but be firm if they break the rules. Perhaps remove use temporarily to signal how serious it is.