

# Children, IT & e-Safety

Information for parents and carers



## The purpose of this guide

Children of today have been born into the 'digital age'. They are increasingly using Information Technology (IT) as part of their everyday lives. This guide explains:



How your children are using IT in school.



How using IT in the home can help children to learn.



How children can use the Internet safely at home.



Where to access further information.

# How your child uses IT at school

IT at Northmead is taught as a subject in its own right and supports children's learning in other subjects. Children are taught to use IT as a tool to support their learning. Within IT lessons children learn to use a wide range of IT including:



**Word Processing** to write stories, poems or letters



**Databases** to record information, e.g. weather



**Spreadsheets** to create tables, charts and graphs



**Desktop Publishing** to design posters, leaflets or cards



**Multimedia Presentation** to present text, pictures and sound



**Drawing Programs** to create pictures and designs



**Internet and CD-ROMs** to find information safely and efficiently



**E-based communications** to contact each other and teachers using a range of programs and technologies safely and appropriately



**Digital Cameras** to record what they have done in class or assist with their work.



**Electronic Sensors** to record changes in light, sound and temperature



**Simulations** to explore real and imaginary situations



**Controllable Robots** to give instructions and make something happen.

## Benefits of using IT at home

How we know that using IT at home can help:

Many studies have looked at the benefits of having access to a computer and/or the internet at home. Here are some of the key findings:



Used effectively, IT can improve children's achievement.



Using IT at home and at school develops skills for life.



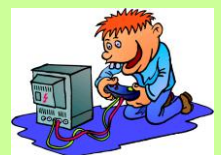
Children with supportive and involved parents and carers do better at school



Children enjoy using IT









Using IT provides access to a wider and more flexible range of learning materials.



# How learning at home with IT benefits children

## Home use of IT by children:

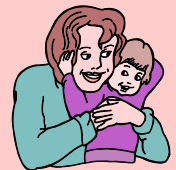
-  Improves their IT skills
-  Offers them choice in what they learn and how they learn it
-  Supports homework and revision
-  improves the presentation of their work
-  connects learning at school with learning at home
-  makes learning more fun.



All this may lead to better performance at school and an improved standard of work. For further information go to:







Parents Centre:

[www.childnet.com/resources/know-it-all-for-parents](http://www.childnet.com/resources/know-it-all-for-parents) &  
[www.thinkyouknow.co.uk/parents](http://www.thinkyouknow.co.uk/parents)



## Using the Internet safely at home












Swimming pools can be dangerous places, so we teach children to swim. Crossing the road can be dangerous, so we teach children road safety skills. We do not stop young people swimming or crossing roads! So too, we must teach them how to use technology safely and have fun and benefit from the opportunities. It is important that children learn to become efficient users of IT but also they learn the responsibilities that are inherent with the technology. You can support your child by:

-  Set up appropriate filters and parental controls on computers.
-  Develop an IT dialogue with your child - they can trust you if something happens
-  Locate the computer in a family area, not a bedroom- this will allow you to supervise children as they use the Internet.
-  Encourage your child to use well known and recognised web sites
-  Use age appropriate 'tools' - mobile phones, games consoles and other devices can access the internet. So, consider this and check they use age appropriate games.
-  Set some simple rules for keeping them safe and make sure they understand their importance.

**Empower your child to make their own sensible and informed decisions.**

# Simple rules for keeping your child safe

To keep your child safe they should:

-  Ask permission before using the internet
-  Only use websites you have chosen together or a child friendly search engine
-  Only email people they know (why not think about setting up an address book)
-  Ask permission before opening an email sent by someone they don't know
-  Not use internet chat rooms
-  Not use their real name when using games on the internet (create a nickname)
-  Never give out a home address, phone or mobile number
-  Never tell someone they don't know, where they go to school
-  Never arrange to meet someone they have 'met' on the internet
-  Only use a webcam with people they know in person
-  Tell you immediately if they see anything they are unhappy with.



## Using these rules

Go through these rules with your child and pin them up near to the computer. It is also a good idea to regularly check the internet sites your child visits e.g. by clicking on history and favourites. Please reassure your child that you want to keep them safe rather than take Internet access away from them.

## Some useful websites

Safety information:

CEOP : [www.ceop.gov.uk](http://www.ceop.gov.uk)

Think U Know : [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

Childnet : [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)

Child friendly search engines:

[www.safesearchkids.com/](http://www.safesearchkids.com/)

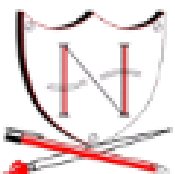
[www.cybersleuth-kids.com/](http://www.cybersleuth-kids.com/)

[www.kidrex.org](http://www.kidrex.org)

[www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/search](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/search)

[www.kidsclick.org](http://www.kidsclick.org)

[www.zoo.com](http://www.zoo.com)



Produced by Northmead Junior School,  
Guildford, Surrey.



