



The Internet is a great way of educating your child, keeping in touch with their friends and buying items on line. However the Internet is also a way in which young people can access, view and be exposed to images that are inappropriate and harmful. It is very easy to hide an identity on line and "friends" may not always be who they seem to be. In addition large bills can be built up when children use on line gaming sites via smart phones and tablets.

The College takes its responsibilities regarding e- safety very seriously and in a separate section of this website outlines the measures in place whilst your child is accessing the Internet at the college. For further details click here.

In this section we have put together a basic guide to help you protect and minimise the dangers of the misuse of the Internet whilst at home or accessing personal devices. This section will be updated regularly. Links which are noted in this section are sites and products that have been viewed by staff as being suitable for use in the home setting. However this does not mean they are endorsed by the College /Academy and parent/carers should make their own decisions about what products they might choose to use in their own homes.

### **Accessing a computer at home.**

The days of having a fixed computer in one room in many homes has now been replaced with family members having their own devices and it can be very difficult for a parent / carer to keep a check on what someone is accessing, viewing and sending via the internet. All devices that can be connected with the internet do have software provided that will allow preferences to be set and managed.

Good general sites for much of the information you may need as a parent /carer can be accessed via

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Secondary/>

<http://ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

[http://www.nspcc.org.uk/help-and-advice/for-parents/keeping-your-child-safe/using-the-internet/internet-safety\\_wda96763.html](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/help-and-advice/for-parents/keeping-your-child-safe/using-the-internet/internet-safety_wda96763.html)

Remember that the internet can be accessed through game consoles and through a TV and parent controls are also available. There are too many to list here but each device will have a support website or contact to help guide you through the process.

### **Social media sites. Eg Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, tumblr. Instagram etc**

Being in touch and having a presence on the web is something that the majority of teenagers want to do. Many handle their pages sensibly but sometimes social media can be used to bully, harass or

intimidate young people. It is sometimes difficult to stop this form of abuse from happening but again with a common sense approach many potential issues can be dealt with.

[http://report-it.org.uk/bullying\\_and\\_harassment](http://report-it.org.uk/bullying_and_harassment)

<http://www.wikihow.com/Limit-Your-Facebook-Profile-Exposure>



## Students

Accessing the internet is an important part of your daily life but there are dangers out there to trap the unwary. There are some basic rules that should always be followed.

Make sure you know who you are contacting via the internet. The internet is a very good way of hiding who you are. Remember not everyone is truthful about themselves or their age.

Make sure when you are downloading files and images that spy programs and viruses that can harm your computer or device do not transfer across. Make sure you have up to date anti virus and spyware software on your devices.

Never give away details of bank accounts or credit cards. Your parent/ carer should always be made aware of what you are doing. Remember lots of games, apps and music are free but can then need to be paid for after a set period, have add ons to gain extra credits.

Remember that some “free” phone lines are not free and you can quickly run up a big phone bill.

If things go wrong this is a good link to help you

[http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11\\_16/](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11_16/)

If you feel ever threatened, uneasy about anything you see on the internet you should not be afraid to report it to your parent / carer, teacher or online.

This link has a reporting button that you could use <http://ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

## **Social media. Eg Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Tumblr, instagram etc**

Moving to a new school and being not longer in primary school can be fun and exciting but it can also be a period of upsets. Use of social media can be used to make friends, keep in touch and develop interests but can be used to bully and say nasty things about individuals.

This is called cyber bullying and is not acceptable that anyone should be a victim of this type of abuse. This link is about cyber bullying.

To send messages, images that cause harm or distress is illegal and the police can be involved.

<http://www.stopbullying.gov/cyberbullying/what-is-it/index.html>

Remember it is so easy to post online and we do it without thinking! Most sites have a delete option but by then it maybe too late and the image or content could already have been forwarded onto others! You may find that some people on the web will try to make you post inappropriate images or content using phone, tablet webcam etc. Never do anything that makes you uncomfortable and always report to an adult anything that makes you feel uncomfortable.



## **HACA** Hemsworth Arts and Community Academy

As a student of HACA we will be providing you with the tools to keep you safe on line. Every year we will remind you on how to keep safe and secure. Posters around the academy will give you the information as a reminder on how to keep safe and who to talk to if things happen that make you uneasy or cause you harm.

We will monitor your email account provided by College and will take action against any one who bullies you, sends or accesses inappropriate websites.

Websites that students use are checked by the teachers and will ensure that appropriate material is accessed. Software that checks websites visited by students during the course of a lesson is in operation.

Staff will ensure that information kept on line is kept securely. Laptops are encrypted to ensure if a laptop or device is lost or stolen information cannot be seen.

Whilst at HACA we want you to be safe and you should report any incidents to a member of the academy staff

The internet offers many opportunities but it is also a place that can have dangers that can harm you.

Think before you click

