

Internet Safety Day

What is Internet Safety Day all about?

Internet Safety Day has been marked each year since 2005, in over 100 countries worldwide.



The theme this year is 'Be the Change: Unite for a Better Internet'. It aims to raise awareness of online safety issues and events and activities are happening all across the UK.

The UK Safer Internet Centre

The UK Safer Internet Centre is coordinated by three leading charities: Childnet International, the South West Grid for Learning and Internet Watch Foundation. The centre has one mission: to promote the safe and responsible use of technology for young people. The aim is that children and young people are aware of how to use the Internet safely and responsibly, making good choices and keeping themselves safe.



How can children be kept safe?

It sounds strange to talk about not being 'safe' on the Internet when we are often at home using different devices. However, the Internet is like a huge door to the outside world. This means there are an unimaginable number of strangers out there.

There are some rules which everyone should follow. These rules allow people to make responsible choices and stay safe online.

Some uses of the Internet:

- gaming
- shopping
- learning new information



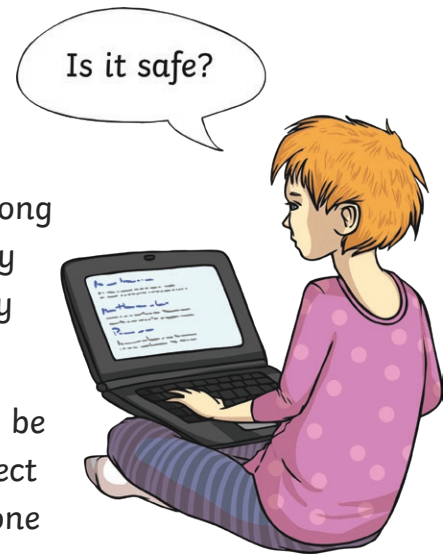
Did you know?

It is illegal for anyone under the age of 13 years old to have a Facebook account.



Never share your personal details online. You wouldn't suddenly tell a person you didn't know what school you go to, where you live or what your phone number is, so don't pass this sort of information on to someone online. No matter how long you have been 'chatting' or emailing someone, they might not be the person they say they are. They must be treated as a stranger.

Don't open any attachment on an email. It could be a virus, which will damage your computer or affect your contact list. It could then be sent to everyone you know, harming their devices too.



Block any emails from people you don't recognise. Just because they might use your name, if you don't recognise their name, delete and block them.

Never meet anyone without an adult with you. Even if you have been in contact with someone online, meeting them in person on your own is very dangerous. Not everyone can be trusted.

If someone is nasty to you, or about you, online, or you see something upsetting, tell an adult. You do not have to put up with unpleasant behaviour, and bullying online (cyberbullying). Cyberbullying is just as upsetting as face-to-face bullying. Don't be tempted to reply to them. Inform an adult immediately!



We can all help make the Internet a safer place. It is a wonderful tool for many reasons, and can make life a lot easier. However, if it is misused, it can be dangerous and worrying. Make the right choices and stay safe online.



Questions

1. When did Internet Safety Day begin?

2. In your own words, describe the two overall aims of the UK Safer Internet Centre.

3. In the box there are listed some uses of the Internet. Identify two other uses.

4. What does the author compare the Internet to? What do you think of this description?

5. What two pieces of information would be considered personal details?

6. Describe the effects of opening an attachment that has a virus.

7. Read the text in the green box on page 2. Explain the meaning of the first paragraph.

8. Describe, in detail, what the sentence "Not everyone can be trusted" means.

9. What is the overall purpose of the text, and what is the general message to children?

10. What is cyberbullying and what should you do about it?