

How your child uses ICT at school

ICT in school is taught as a subject in its own right and it also supports learning in all other subjects including Maths and English. Within ICT lessons children learn to use a wide range of applications such as:

- Word Processing to write stories, poems etc.
- Databases to record and store information
- Spreadsheets to create charts, tables etc.
- Desktop Publishing to design posters, leaflets etc.
- Multimedia Presentation to present information.
- Internet to find information.
- Email to communicate with others.
- Sound editing to create and edit voice, music etc
- Website Authoring to make and present webpages over the internet.
- Programming Software to create games etc.
- Video conferencing to share ideas or ask an expert.
- Digital Cameras to record information pictorially.



The benefits of using ICT at home

We know that using ICT at home can help

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

- Used effectively, ICT can improve children's achievement
- Using ICT at home and at school develops skills for life
- Children with supportive and involved parents and carers do better at school
- ICT and its use provide access to a wider and more flexible range of learning materials.
- Children enjoy using ICT
- School work, homework and revision can be supported

All this can lead to better performance at school and an improved standard of work.

Advice for Parents and Carers



Young people have been born into the 'digital age'. They use computers, mobile phones, gaming consoles etc., as part of their everyday lives. They often seem 'expert' compared to parents! But, young people do not have the 'life experience' of adults and need your support. You can provide this by talking to your child about what they are doing.

Develop Internet 'skills'

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 from swimming or crossing roads! So too, we must teach them how to be safe online so they can have fun, enjoy creative aspects and benefit from the learning opportunities. We must however still be aware of danger signs so we can deal with them.



Using the Internet safely at home

Whilst many Internet Service Providers offer filtering systems and tools to help you safeguard your child at home, it remains surprisingly easy for children to access inappropriate material including unsuitable text, pictures and movies. Parents are advised to set security levels within Internet Explorer or other browsers with this in mind. Locating the computer in a family area where possible, not a bedroom will enable you to supervise your child as they use the internet. Also, consider mobile phones, games consoles and other devices that can access the Internet. However, don't deny them the opportunity to learn from and enjoy the wide variety of material and games available on the Internet. Instead discuss with them some simple ground rules for keeping safe online making sure that they understand their importance.

Simple Rules for keeping your child safe

To keep your child safe they should:

- Ask permission to use the Internet and discuss what websites they are using
- Only use websites you have chosen together or a child friendly search engine
- Only email people they know (consider setting up an address book)
- Do not open emails from people they do not know
- Always create a nickname when using games or websites on the Internet
- Never give out personal information about themselves, friends or family
- Never arrange to meet someone they have met on the Internet unless accompanied by an adult
- Do not tell someone which school they attend or post pictures of themselves in their school uniform
- Only use a webcam with people that they know
- Tell someone immediately if they see anything that 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 sites your child has been accessing by using the show History & Favourite button. Reassure your child that you do this to make sure that they are staying safe online. Create a dialogue and a relationship of mutual respect as far as the Internet is concerned.

Some useful websites

e-safety:

- www.facebook.com/safety
- www.ceop.gov.uk
- www.thinkuknow.co.uk
- www.childnet-int.org



Child friendly search engines:

- www.askkids.com
- www.kids.yahoo.com
- www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/search



Information



for parents and carers

