Using the Internet safely at home

Whilst many Internet Service Providers offer filtering systems to help you safeguard your child at home, it remains surprisingly easy for children to access inappropriate material including unsuitable texts, pictures and movies. Parents are advised to set the security levels within Internet Explorer with this in mind. Locating the computer in a family area, not a bedroom, will enable you to supervise children as they use the Internet. However, don't deny your child the opportunity to learn from the wide variety of material and games available on the Internet. Instead set some simple rules for keeping them safe and make sure they understand their importance.

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 consider 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
· 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 is visiting 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.

For further information go to:

CEOP: www.ceop.gov.uk

Think U Know: www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Childnet: www.childnet-int.org

Please contact Mrs Cadogan at school by emailing **scadogan@whittaker moss.rochdale.sch.uk**, if you wish to bring anything online related to the school's attention.

Some useful websites

When searching the Internet, we recommend you use one of the following child friendly search engines:

CBBC Search:

www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/search

Kiddle:

www.kiddle.co

Kids Search:
www.kidssearch.com

Swiggle:
www.swiggle.org.uk

Whittaker Moss Primary School

Children, ICT & e-safety
Information for parents and carers

The purpose of this guide

Children of today are increasingly using Information & Communication Technology (ICT) in schools and in the home. This guide explains:

· How your children are using ICT in school.
· How using ICT 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 ICT at school

ICT in schools is taught as a subject in its own right and also supports children's learning in other subjects, including English and mathematics. Within ICT lessons children learn to use a wide range of ICT including:

- **Word Processing** to write stories, poems or letters
- **Databases** to record information, e.g. minibeasts
- **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** to find information
- **Email** to send a message only to children in their class, via Purple Mash.
- **IPAD Sensor Apps** to record changes in light, sound and temperature
- **Controllable Robots** to give instructions and make something happen
- **Simulations** to explore real and imaginary situations
- **Website Publishing** to present ideas over the Internet.

Main school and home websites

In school we regularly use the following websites that you can access at home with your child through their individual passwords:

Purple Mash: A multi-media website for children aged 5 to 11, where they can access creative tools, educational games and themed resources. Teachers also use this site to set any remote learning tasks. Only school staff can access your child's account. In school we use this site to teach our computing curriculum.

Edshed: This site gives children access to Spelling Shed and Maths Shed. Spelling shed allows pupils to practice their spellings through a range of games. Maths Shed contains a range of maths games which encourage the learning of basic maths skills. Both websites are used in the classroom as part of our Literacy and Maths curriculum.

Times Table Rockstars: Through games and competitions, this website helps children to learn their times tables. This website is used in school for times tables practise.

Other websites / apps used

Other websites and apps used in school that you may use at home are:

Oak Academy: Online video lessons for all subjects. This site is used to enhance our remote provision.

Google Classroom and Meet: All children in school have a google account. This allows parents to log in and book virtual meetings with teachers on Google Meet. Teachers can also run class meetings on Google Meet. Google Classroom can be used to set assignments on as part of our remote provision offer.

White Rose Maths: Parents can access the maths videos on this website to help children with a maths concept. The school uses this website to deliver our maths curriculum.

How does learning at home using ICT benefit children?

How we know that using ICT 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, 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
- children enjoy using ICT
- using ICT provides access to a wider and more flexible range of learning materials.