

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls...

It's A Jungle Out There!



Welcome to Banchory-Devenick School's

Guide to Internet Safety

SAFETY NET

The Internet is a great resource. You can play games, post a blog and even use it to help with your homework. Best of all you can keep in touch with your friends and family through IM (instant messaging), chat rooms and cyber cafes. Mobile phones are also really popular, and you can do lots of things on them that you couldn't do before.

As parents and teachers, we want you to be safe when you are on the Internet, so read on for some friendly tips and advice!

CHATTING



Everybody loves a chit-chat. When you are chatting online don't give out personal details, such as your full name, address, school or phone number. Don't forget not everyone you meet online is who they say they are. Never agree to meet someone you have met online unless you have permission from a responsible adult and they are sure it's safe.

EMAIL

It's always lovely to receive emails, except when you open your inbox and find out they're all about work! Just be careful about opening emails from people you don't know. It's best to delete these emails straight away as they could contain nasty messages or viruses. Most importantly, treat other people as you would like them to treat you. Take responsibility and never write anything that might hurt or upset someone.



MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones are a great way of keeping safe when you are out and about with your friends. Your parents are only a phone call away should you need anything. As with emails, delete messages from people you don't know. They could contain viruses that will stop your phone from working, and don't forget to take responsibility for what you write or say. If you should receive any nasty messages, save them and show an adult. They will help you decide the best thing to do. Think carefully before you send photos, even to a friend. Remember they can be passed on for anyone to see.



SOCIAL NETWORKING / CHAT ROOMS

These seem to be the latest craze, and we can sometimes wonder how the world functioned without Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. As always though there are some simple rules you need to stay safe. Decide what you want to put on your profile. It might be a good idea to discuss this with your parents first. Don't forget, if you don't want to use your real name, nicknames can be cool and instead of using photos, why not create an avatar? If you are putting on any personal details or photos use your privacy settings. This won't ruin your social life, you can still add new friends, it will just mean that the only people who can see your profile are the people you want to. Remember if anyone makes you feel uncomfortable you can delete them from your contacts at any time, and don't forget to tell an adult.



You should be aware that many social networking sites have an age restriction of 13 and if reported, the sites will delete your page.

CYBER BULLYING

Cyber bullying is when people use technology to send nasty and upsetting messages to others. If someone is being nasty to you online or on your mobile phone, save the message and show it to an adult. As your parents and teachers, we have a duty of care to you and we will do our best to help stop it happening and sort it out.



USEFUL WEBSITES

Your parents may be interested in the following websites:

- www.thinkuknow.co.uk
- www.childnet-int.org/safety
- www.bbc.co.uk/onlinesafety/

SMART

Last but not least, don't forget our SMART rules!

SMART is the message with a simple rule
Better learn this lesson, don't you be no fool.
You can easy stay safe, you can still be cool,
If you wanna be a real SMART kid.

Start with an S, we're talking SAFE to chat,
Keep your personal details underneath your hat.
And you'd better say 'No' if you smell a rat,
If you wanna be a real SMART kid.

M is for MEETING with an online friend,
Take a grown up with you, 'cos they might pretend
They are really like you, but the rules don't bend,
'Cos you wanna be a real SMART kid.

A's for ACCEPTING all the junk email
And if you don't know the sender, then delete or fail.
Just you keep the way clear for your real life pals
If you wanna be a real SMART kid.

R means RELIABLE, here's what we mean
Don't believe just everything you read on screen.
Take a moment to think, and you won't look green
If you wanna be a real SMART kid!

Last comes a T, the letter stands for TELL,
Better blow that whistle. Better ring that bell.
Tell a grown up, a teacher, your folks as well,
If you wanna be a real SMART kid!

(Live Wire Productions)