

At Dundry School we take the safety of children on the internet very seriously. We have an internet safety policy which parents can ask to see if they so desire. However, the main points of the school internet policy are these...

- The school** has the recommended internet filters to prevent harmful content reaching the children.
- For younger** children and in many cases with older children also, the pupils are directed towards the appropriate internet site for an activity.
- Searching** for information and images is permitted for older children but only in the presence of a member of staff.
- Children** are reminded that if, in the unlikely event, they do come across something which makes them feel uncomfortable they are to switch off the monitor and immediately inform the teacher.
- When** the computer suite is used for recreational activities (such as wet playtimes) the children are not allowed to access the internet.

As well as these points we would encourage safe use of the internet at home by following these simple guidelines

- Make** sure that any computer with access to the internet is in a common area of the house. (Don't forget laptops connected to wireless networks!)
- Do not** allow your child to visit internet chat-rooms that are unregulated. There are plenty of safe (to a degree) messaging services (MSN/Yahoo etc) where the children can only speak to people they know rather than 'meeting others' online.
- Remember** that 'cyber-bullying' (where children write nasty things about each other online) is an issue, does happen and is as bad as any other form of bullying. In fact it could be seen as worse as the child can be 'got to' in their own home. Never forget that the computer has an **OFF BUTTON!**
- Learn** what your child is doing online. The biggest issue is general ignorance about the sorts of activities that children can and do get up to on the internet. Sit with your child and ask them to show you all they can do.