



# USING THE INTERNET

Guidance for  
Parents and  
Children



# Introduction:

"Parents, would you leave your child alone in a strange area, let them enter Adult Only shops or meet a total stranger?" Unfortunately this is the risk you run when allowing your child to use the Internet without supervision. This modern technology allows those who target children, to enter your homes and interact with your children via their computers.

The Internet is a computer based network which is bringing vast educational, research and communication capability into classrooms, workplaces and homes. Increasingly the use of the Internet is becoming more common in business, education and leisure.

Concern has emerged within many organisations that not enough people using the Internet know about the hazards that it may present.

This leaflet incorporates a set of user friendly notes for parents and children alike, encouraging them to be **WEBWISE** when using the Internet. Both parents and children are encouraged to ensure that they are familiar with these notes before using the Internet.

The Internet is used by a variety of people. Most are decent and respectful, but some may be rude, insulting, mean and even criminal. In order for both parents and children alike to utilise the Internet in safety, they should become **WEBWISE** being aware of the potential hazards.

As well as the advice presented within this leaflet, you may contact the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) or your local Internet retailer to find out about protective software packages that can be installed on your machine.

# Guidance for Parents:

The Internet is already playing an important role in society. Its significance will continue to increase in the course of our children's lives. Parents and carers of all kinds therefore need to know about its power and potential. With only a little care it is possible to reap all the benefits of the Internet, and reduce the possible pitfalls. Here we explain how.



## **The Possible Pitfalls**

The problems your children might encounter fall into three broad categories:

- excessive use leading to a neglect of homework, outdoor or other social activities, and heavy telephone bills;
- accidentally, or deliberately, accessing pictures or written material which are pornographic or offensive in some other way;
- unwittingly or otherwise getting into contact with inappropriate individuals who may wish to cause them harm.

## **Getting Protection**

Children all need a certain amount of privacy but they also need parental involvement in their daily lives. Familiarise yourself with how your child uses the Internet. Regularly ask them to show you the sites they access and check the history folder.

If parents could be sure that they would always be present when their child went surfing then they would have less reason to worry about the possible pitfalls. But life just isn't like that so you might also want to install protective software on your computer which, whether you are there or not, could prevent specified types of pictures, or words or access to certain Usenet Groups. You can even prevent chatting. Usenet Groups and Chat Rooms have been known to attract unsavoury types who pretend to be young people seeking contacts with other youngsters.

You should reach an agreement with your children about the amount of time they are allowed to surf but most protective software will also allow you to control the amount of time they can access the Internet. The ISP can advise you on this.

Some families have put the computer in a room, which lends itself to easy supervision, i.e. a living room, but this may not be possible in all households. Certainly we would discourage a child from having the Internet in their bedroom.

**If you discover any offensive material, do not delete it, save all disks, tapes and any related media. Then contact any of the companies listed in this leaflet for advice.**

# Guidance for Children:

W

**WHEN** chatting on the net, sending a picture or personal details, bank or credit card details is not a good idea without a parent's permission.

E

**E-MAILS** that are rude, suggestive or make you feel uncomfortable should be ignored and never give your password to anyone, not even your best friend.

B

**BEFORE** meeting a cyberfriend, tell your parents, take them with you the first time and always meet in a public place.

W

**WHEN** online, if you see distasteful pictures or bad language, tell your parents.

I

**IF** an offer seems too good to be true, it probably is.

S

**STAY** safe online.

E

**ENJOY** the Net, it is fun, but always be

**WEBWISE**

# You can contact:



## **internet watch**

Write to; Ruth DIXON, IWF,  
5 Coles Lane. Oakington,  
Cambridgeshire, CB4 5BA.

Phone: Hotline 08456008844

E-mail: [report@iwf.org.uk](mailto:report@iwf.org.uk)

[www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk)

## **You can also contact**



## **NCH**

Registered Office:  
85 Highbury Park,  
LONDON, N5 1UD.

Tel: 020 7704 7000

[www.nch.org.uk](http://www.nch.org.uk)



## **Childnet International**

Studio 14,  
96 Endwell Road,  
LONDON, SE4 2PD

Tel: 020 7639 6967,

[www.childnet-int.org](http://www.childnet-int.org)



**Southern**

**CRIMESTOPPERS**

**0800 555 111**

Call anonymously with information about crime

# If you suspect Child Pornography



Contact the  
Hampshire  
Constabulary  
Paedophile  
Investigation  
Unit  
Southern Support  
& Training HQ  
Hamble Lane  
Southampton  
SO31 4TS



**Phone: 023 807 45445**  
**fax: 023 807 45141**

Devised by PC Mick Brown, Paedophile Investigation Unit.  
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