E Safety at College Road Primary School

Some of the extracts below are either direct quotes, or have been modified, from the publication 'Guildlines and Resources for Internet Safety In Schools'. A copy of the full report can be found on our school website.

Please find below some of the things we have been working on as a school.

Personal safety on the Internet.

As a school we have been helping Students to understand that people are not always who they say they are, and explaining why they should never give out personal information without an adult's permission, especially if it conveys where they can be found at a particular time.

Children are made aware that predators are always present on the Internet. By helping students to recognise the various forms of *cyberbullying* and know what steps to take if confronted with that behaviour, we hope they will be well equipped to deal with this should it arise.

Information on the Internet.

We have been helping students to discuss how to identify acceptable sites to visit and what to do if an inappropriate site is accessed. Students are informed about various Web advertising techniques and are shown that not all sites provide truthful information.

Activities on the Internet.

We have also been discussing acceptable social networking and communication methods and the appropriate steps to take when encountering a problem. Students are taught the potential dangers of emailing, gaming, downloading files, and peer-to-peer computing (e.g., viruses, legal issue, harassment, sexual predators, identity theft).

'Guildlines and Resources for Internet Safety In Schools' internet safety advice.

• The Internet contains inappropriate information for children, such as pornography, hate literature, aggressive advertising, and violent images.

• Internet communication often is anonymous, especially in *chat rooms* or *blogs*. A sexual predator may pose as a friend to lure a child away from his or her family's protection. *Cyberbullies* may target a child for harassment.
• Using e-mail or downloading files can lead to *viruses* or hidden *spyware*, which endanger a family's privacy and computer.
• Information provided over the Internet—by children and adults—can be used for *identity theft*.

How can parents help?

Parents can provide the best protection for their children and help reinforce the principles learned in the classroom. Families should reach agreements about acceptable Internet activity and content.

• Parents should read about and know how to respond to Internet risks.
• Parents should talk with their children about safe and appropriate Web sites and activities.
• Children should be encouraged to report anything they feel uneasy about. If parents overreact, children will be less likely to confide in them the next time.
• The family should create rules about what children can and cannot do while online. Posting the agreements near the computer will ensure children see them often.

Monitoring is crucial. Parents should know where their children go online, how long they stay there, and the warning signs that something is wrong.

• Parents should place computers in family areas as opposed to bedrooms; however, they need to realise that instant messaging devices, mobile phones, and wireless computers may allow children to get online anywhere.
• When young children first begin going online, parents should work closely with them and talk about Internet safety at an early age.
• Parents should bookmark suitable sites and check back regularly to ensure that the content of those sites has not changed and that harmful sites have not been bookmarked.
• Filters are helpful but not fail proof. Parents need to know about circumventor sites, which allow users to get around filtering software controls.

• Parents should seek training to learn different methods of monitoring their children's Internet use. They continually need to employ up-to-date techniques and software to track where their children go online.
• Parents should be aware that some sites have age restrictions that children may ignore or not realise.

Here are some useful sites recommended for you to visit.

Online Safety Guide (GetNetWise)
http://kids.getnetwise.org/safetyguide/

Parenting Online (WiredKids)
http://wiredkids.org/resources/documents/pdf/parentingonline.pdf

Internet Safety: Information for Parents (WiredSafety)
http://www.wiredsafety.org/parent.html

Online Predators: Help Minimize the Risk (Microsoft)
http://www.microsoft.com/protect/family/guidelines/predators.mspx