

Newton Flotman Church of England Primary School

Notes for parents about internet use – to accompany VLE letter

1. Access to a computer and the internet can help children learn better: The e-Learning Foundation says “Pupils whose families have a computer are likely to achieve a higher grade”.



2. At school we teach children to value safety and respect when using computers and the internet. We will guide pupils toward appropriate materials on the Internet. This is the school's responsibility.

3. The school's internet providers screen out inappropriate material, but outside school, home networks may not and parents or guardians need to give the same guidance as they would normally give for other media such as television, books, movies, games and so on. This is the parents' and carers' responsibility.



4. **Good advice for families using the internet:**

- parents should discuss with their children the rules for using the Internet and decide together when, how long, and what constitutes appropriate use;
- parents should get to know the sites their children visit, and talk to them about what they are learning and doing;
- parents should ensure that they give their agreement before their children give out personal identifying information in any electronic communication on the Internet, such as a picture, an address, a phone number, the school name, or financial information such as credit card or bank details. In this way they can protect their children (and themselves) from unwanted or unacceptable overtures from strangers, from unplanned expenditure and from fraud;
- parents should encourage their children not to respond to any unwelcome, unpleasant or abusive messages, and to tell them if they receive any such messages or images.
- More information at: <http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/>

5. We have also taught the children to use computers responsibly: ASK AN ADULT before installing software or downloading files; CHECK before putting a friend's CD or memory stick into the family



computer; DON'T click on adverts that offer FREE things; ASK before giving any details to a website (eg your parents' email address); if an offer looks TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, then it probably is; make your username something that DOES NOT IDENTIFY YOU; and more. But please reinforce these important concepts at home.



6. Computers and children are both hugely complex things. You can't assume that either will work perfectly all the time, so do make sure you keep an eye on them. Especially when they are together.

