

The following information was obtained from the Parents Protect website.

http://www.parentsprotect.co.uk/internet_safety.htm

The Parent Protect website is very comprehensive website useful not only for parents, but for teachers working with parents.

Information is easily accessible using the left hand index to access the following topics:

- [Internet Safety](#)
- [The Internet - Positives & Negatives](#)
- [Grooming](#)
- [Social Networking](#)
- [Sexting](#)
- [Cyberbullying](#)
- [Gaming](#)
- [Searching](#)
- [Jargon Buster](#)
- [Useful Links](#)
- [Internet Safety Sessions](#)

There are a number of suggestions not backed up with information, but indicated as areas to be looked into, for example, knowing the difference between 'automated search results' and 'sponsored links', how to set the filters for a particular search engine, or installing filtering software. However, in general, the website is a useful starting point for parents, one, because it is comprehensive in the topics it covers and, two, there are plenty of links to other useful sites.

Searching the internet – an example of website content

We all use search engines; for example Google, Yahoo or Ask, and if we want an answer to something, chances are we will search the internet for it. Our children are no different.

While searching holds obvious benefits for children and young people – researching school projects for example – it also carries a risk of exposure to material that is inappropriate, potentially harmful or even illegal.

Top Tips

1. Do some searching yourself. Test a few 'innocent' words and see what comes up. This is a good way to check your computer settings and ensure inappropriate content is being filtered out.

2. Talk to your child about being as accurate as possible when searching – the more words you use the more relevant the search results will be.
3. Remind children that not all information held on the internet is reliable. You must not believe everything you read!
4. Know the difference between 'automated search results' and 'sponsored links' which are results that are paid for. Search providers will differentiate between the two and it is important you can tell the difference.
5. Take the time to get to know the search provider you and your children use. Have a look at their safety advice and research their filtering processes.
6. Consider installing filtering software onto the computer to help protect your child from inappropriate / harmful content.
7. There are some search providers designed for children – www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/search is one such site, <http://kids.yahoo.com/search> is another. See also our Useful Links section.
8. If you come across inappropriate or harmful material – report it to the authorities. Find out more about reporting content in our [Useful Links](#) section.

Resources

Download this '[Parents Guide to Search and Search Providers](#)' – created by Childnet and the Home Office.

You can also read further information and advice on internet safety by following this

Footnote

Please be advised that the information above is offered in good faith. Users taking up the information need to ascertain for themselves the effectiveness of You Tube Safety Mode.

Andy Ryan
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