



Howbridge Infant School

Children, Computing & Safety

Information for Parents and Carers



ZIP IT



BLOCK IT



FLAG IT

The purpose of this guide

Children of today are increasingly using computing technology in schools and in the home.

This guide explains:

- How your children are using Computing in school.
- How using Computing in the home can help children to learn.
- How children can use the Internet safely at home.
- Where to access further information.

How your child uses computing at school

Computing in schools is taught as a subject in its own right and also supports children's learning in other subjects across the curriculum, including English and maths. Within lessons children learn to use a wide range of technology including:

- **Word processing** to write stories, poems and letters
- **Presentations** to present sound, pictures and video
- **Drawing programs** to create pictures and designs
- **Internet** to find information
- **Digital cameras** to record what they have done in class or on a visit
- **Electronic sensors** to record changes in light, sound and temperature
- **Controllable robots** to give instructions and make something happen
- **Simulations** to explore real and imaginary situations
- **Databases** to record information e.g. minibeasts

How can you help your child at home

Computing is not just about using a computer or a laptop. It also includes the use of controllable toys, digital cameras and everyday equipment such as tape recorders or DVD players.

Children can be helped to develop their computing skills at home by:

- Writing a letter to a relative
- Sending an email to a friend
- Drawing a picture on the screen
- Using the Internet to research a class topic
- Planning a route with a controllable toy
- Using interactive games



Benefits of using computing technology at home

How we know that using computing at home can help

Many studies have looked at the benefits of having access to a computer and or the Internet at home. Here are some of the key findings:

- Used effectively, computing can improve children's achievement
- Using computing at home and at school develops skills for life
- Children with supportive and involved parents and carers do better at school
- Children enjoy using technology
- Using computing technology provides access to a wider and more flexible range of learning materials

How learning at home with computing benefits children

Home use of computing by children:

- Improves their computing skills
- Offers the choice in what they learn and how they learn it
- Supports homework and revision
- Improves the presentation of their work
- Connects learning at school with learning at home
- Makes learning more fun

All this can lead to better performance at school and an improved standard of work.



Using the internet safely at home

Whilst many Internet Service Providers offer filtering systems and tools to help you safeguard your child at home, it remains surprisingly easy for children to access inappropriate material including unsuitable text, pictures and movies. Parents are advised to set the security level within Internet Explorer or other browsers with this in mind. Locating computers in a family area where possible, not a bedroom, will enable you to supervise your son or daughter as they use the Internet. Also consider mobile phones and games console and other devices that can access the internet. Discuss with your child some simple rules for keeping safe online and making sure they understand their importance.

Simple rules for keeping your child safe

- Ask permission before using the internet and discuss what websites they are using
- Only use websites you have chosen together or a child friendly search engine
- Only email people they know, set up an address book
- Ask permission before opening an email sent by someone they don't know
- Do not use their real name when using games or websites on the Internet (create a nickname)
- Never give out any personal information about themselves, friends or family online including home address, name, phone or mobile number
- Never arrange to meet someone they have 'met' on the internet without talking to an adult first; always take an adult and meet in a public place
- Never tell someone they don't know where they go to school or post any pictures of themselves in school uniform
- Only use a webcam with people they know
- Tell you immediately if they see anything they are unhappy with



Using these rules

Go through these rules with your child and pin them up near to the computer. It is also a good idea to regularly check the internet sites your child is visiting by clicking on 'history' and 'favourites'. Please reassure your child that you are trying to keep your child safe rather than taking internet access away from them.

For further information visit:

CEOP: www.ceop.gov.uk

Think U Know: www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Childnet www.childnet.com

Some useful websites

When searching the internet we recommended that you use one of the following friendly search engines:

CBBC Search: www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/search
National Education Network www.nen.gov.uk
www.swiggle.org.uk
www.safesearchkids.com

If you have any questions or concerns contact the e-safety officer at Howbridge Infant School.