

# Young People, ICT & e-Safety

*Information for Parents & Carers*



## The purpose of this guide

**Young people of today are increasingly using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in schools and in the home.**

This guide explains:

How young people are using ICT in school.

How using ICT in the home can help young people to learn.

How young people can use the Internet safely at home.

What parents should do to ensure their child stays safe when using the Internet at home.

## How your son or daughter uses ICT at School

ICT at the Alun School is taught as a discrete subject as well as supporting students' learning in other subjects, including English and Mathematics. Within lessons students learn to use a wide range of ICT including:

- **Word Processing** to write essays, news articles or letters
- **Databases** to record information
- **Spreadsheets** to create tables, charts and graphs
- **Desktop Publishing** to design posters, leaflets or cards
- **Multimedia Presentations** to present text, pictures and sound
- **Drawing Programs** to create pictures and designs in Art and Technology lessons
- **Internet and CD-ROMs** to access research for project work
- **Digital Cameras** to record work in or outside the classroom
- **Control software** to give instructions and control events
- **Simulations** to explore real and imaginary situations
- **Website Publishing** to create their own websites
- **Moodle (VLE)** to access resources uploaded by teachers

## Using the Internet safely at home



Whilst many Internet Service Providers (ISPs) offer filtering systems to help you safeguard your son or daughter at home, it remains surprisingly easy for students to access inappropriate material including unsuitable texts, pictures and movies. Government advice is that locating the computer in a family area, not a bedroom, will enable you to supervise your son or daughter as they use the Internet. However, don't deny them the opportunity to learn from the wide variety of material and games available. Instead discuss with them some simple rules for keeping them safe and make sure they understand their importance.

## Benefits of using ICT at home

**How we know that using ICT at home can help students to achieve success.** 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:

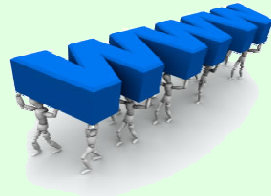
- used effectively, ICT can improve students' achievement
- using ICT at home and at school develops skills for life
- students with supportive and involved parents and carers do better at school
- students enjoy using ICT to support their learning
- using ICT provides a wider and more flexible range of learning materials

## How ICT benefits students

**Home use of ICT by students:**

- improves their ICT skills and makes learning more fun
- offers them 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

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



For further information go to:

[www.parentscentre.gov.uk/usingcomputersandtheinternet](http://www.parentscentre.gov.uk/usingcomputersandtheinternet)

From the menu choose either **Links by Topic** or **Links by Age** for details of websites that will support students' learning.

## Helpful Tips & Information

Know what your children are doing online and who they are talking to. Ask them to teach you to use any applications you have never used. Keeping the computer in a family room means that you can share your child's online experience – and that they are less likely to act inappropriately.

Help your children to understand that they should never give out personal details to online friends — personal information includes their messenger ID, email address, mobile number and any pictures of themselves, their family or friends. If your child publishes a picture or video online, anyone can change it or share it.

If your child receives spam/junk email and texts, remind them never to believe them, reply to them or use them. It is not a good idea for your child to open files that are from people they don't know. They won't know what they contain — it could be a virus or be inappropriate. Help your child to understand that some people lie online and therefore it's better to keep online friends online. They should never meet up with any strangers without an adult they trust.

Always keep communication open for a child to know that it's never too late to tell someone if something makes them feel uncomfortable.

### For Further Information:

**Visit the school's e-Safety website:**

[www.alunschool.co.uk/esafety](http://www.alunschool.co.uk/esafety)

Other UK Information Sites: [www.ceop.gov.uk](http://www.ceop.gov.uk)  
[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)