What can you do to help keep your child safe online? (Ofcom guidance)

►Educate yourself

Get to know how your children use the internet. Ask them to show you some of their favourite sites and talk about them. Make them aware that there are things on the internet which may upset them and that they can always talk to you at any time. Be aware of any changes in the way they use the internet, such as the amount of time they spend online or how often they access the internet through their smart phone.

►Talk to your children about the risks

Make sure your children realise they should never give out personal details – such as name, address, school and telephone numbers – to online friends they have not met face-to-face, and tell them never to respond to junk email or open attachments that are from people they don't know. Work with your children to understand how search engines work so that they don't stumble across unsuitable content and are able to find the information they need quickly and efficiently.

►Find ways of being with your child when they are online

This will make it easier for you to see what your child is looking at online. Sit with young children when they are using the internet. With older children, you could agree limits on the amount of time they spend online.

►Set up parental controls

Parental controls are designed to help you have more control over how features of the internet are used. They will not make the internet completely safe, but they are a good way of preventing children from accessing some inappropriate and harmful content. All of the UK's big broadband providers offer parental control software for their customers. Each package is different, but most do the following:
• Restrict access to inappropriate content.
• Limit the amount of time your children can be online, or how long they can access certain sites.
• Monitor and inform you if your children attempt to gain access to particular websites. You can phone your broadband service provider or check their website to see what parental controls they offer.

►Adjust browser settings

Some search engines – including Google, Yahoo and Bing – offer 'safe search' settings which enable you to filter out the sites you don't want your children to see. If your children watch programmes or films online, many providers offer tools you can use to prevent them seeing unsuitable content. For example, the BBC iPlayer has a **Parental Guidance Lock** which enables you to control which BBC programmes may be accessed on your computer. You can find out more here:
www.bbc.co.uk/guidance/

For more information on keeping your child safe online visit:
www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

Any questions...?
Contact Mr Pester at the school

IS YOUR CHILD SAFE ONLINE?

Are you aware of the dangers that children can face when using the internet?

This leaflet is designed to raise parents' awareness of the dangers to children of using the internet. It explains what Ravenswood School is doing and what parents can do to keep children safe whilst they are online.

The internet has many positive benefits but there can also be significant risks to children who have unsupervised access to it.

Children can access the internet from computers, laptops and tablets **but had you ever thought** that they might also have internet access through games consoles like the X-Box, Playstation and Wii, their iPod Touch, an internet connected TV and from their mobile phone?

Had you realised there are unsecured local networks that will allow them to connect?

What are the risks to children?

Exposure to inappropriate materials
For example, pornographic pictures and videos.

Physical danger and sexual abuse
Paedophiles often 'groom' children over a long period by becoming their online friend without revealing their true identity. A paedophile might be able to track a child's location through the child's mobile phone.

Cyberbullying
Victims of cyberbullying often find that they cannot escape a bully's unpleasant texts and emails which are often sent anonymously to the child's phone and can lead to stress and deep depression.

Losing control over pictures and video
Pictures and videos can be copied, shared and spread at great speed. What may have started as being posted for a few friends can very quickly end up in the hands of many. Some young people have posted or sent sexualised pictures of themselves to a boyfriend or girlfriend and found them shared further.

Obsessive use of the internet and ICT
Addiction to video games can disrupt eating and sleep patterns and cause physical and mental health problems.

Online Reputation
Young people should think about what they share, where they share it and who they share it with – what seems funny now, may not do in the future.

Viruses, hacking and security
Computers are an important part of our everyday lives now, so it is important to keep them healthy. See **www.getsafeonline.org** for more information.

How do children use the internet?

For many children the internet is an essential part of their lives and they often use it in far more varied ways than adults do. Children use the internet for:

Music - sharing, listening, making

Movies - downloading and watching

Games - playing with friends and strangers across the globe

Education - downloading and using information

Publishing - sharing and collaborating

Social networking - staying in touch with friends, meeting new people and seeing where they are

Chatting - either in chat rooms or direct to friends or family by typing or using a webcam

How do we keep pupils safe whilst they're online at Ravenswood?

We take the safety of our pupils very seriously and their online safety (or 'e-safety') is no exception.

Our internet access is filtered to remove inappropriate and offensive material and there is always an adult present when children are using

the internet. Social networking websites can not be accessed in school. In lessons, children are taught how they can access the internet safely and these messages are reinforced when they use ICT equipment and during Safer Internet Week each February.

Ravenswood Acceptable ICT Usage Agreement for Pupils - We ask all parents to sign this agreement with their child at the start of each academic year. Please look out for it being sent home in September. If we do not get the form back, Julie Davis will contact you and listen to any concerns you may have.

How we monitor that pupils are keeping safe online

North Somerset Council requests all schools:
- Check pupils' use of emails
- Check pupils' use of social networking sites
- Monitor the internet use across the school

We will report any concerns to the relevant authorities. If we identify any specific concerns related to your child Julie Davis will contact you.

360 degrees safe award
In 2013 Ravenswood School was awarded the 360 Degrees Safe E-Safety Mark in recognition of our high standards of e-safety provision.