

# Make sure your 'net savvy' know-how stacks up...

## Protect your personal details...

Never give out any personally identifiable details online (such as your full name, email, home address, school name or phone number). Online friends should always be treated as strangers unless you know them in real life. If you give out your personal information to people you have only met online you can never be sure where it will end up, what it will be used for, or who may contact you.

## Tell someone...

Always tell a trusted adult if you are worried or uncomfortable about someone or something online. It can feel really upsetting to get sent something nasty by email or IM, and it can be through no fault of your own. Don't ever feel that you can't tell someone because you feel ashamed or embarrassed. If someone online encourages you to keep something secret from your parents, you should be very wary of them.

## Happy for all to see your profile?

Don't post anything in public that you don't want your parents, teacher, boss, college tutor, or boyfriend or girlfriend to see. These posts tend to last longer than any of us thought they could. They are passed around and discoverable by search engines. You are never truly private when online.

## Always report cybercrime...

If you come across dangerous or criminal activity online, or you suspect someone is a predator or criminal, you should tell a trusted adult & also report it to your local police office. You should save any communication as the police will use the information to investigate the crime.

## Protect your email address...

Use a free email service, such as gmail or hotmail, and don't use your name or any other identifiable information to create your email address. If you receive a lot of spam or unwanted emails, you can just delete the account and create a new one.

## Don't meet them in person...

It's easy to forget that someone is still a stranger even though you've been chatting to them for ages online, and they feel like a good friend. If you feel that you 'have to' meet an online friend, you must tell your parent or guardian and make sure you take them with you.

## Don't be a victim of "phishing" ...

Phishing is when an ID thief sends you an email or IM pretending to be your bank, or an online service like Paypal. They will claim that someone has broken into your account, or that changes were made to your account and then ask you to login using the link in the email. The link takes you to their site, but you think you're on your bank's site. If you type in your login and password, your real account can be accessed within minutes.

## Think before you click...

Before posting something online, think twice and make sure it says what you wanted it to say, can't be misconstrued and is being posted at the right place or sent to the right person. Think about the person on the other side. Many cyberwars start with a careless message.