Internet Safety for Children – Guidance for Parents

Children can appear to become very skilled in using technology. They love our phones to play games on and they learn to move around in the on-line world very quickly.

While your children might be experts at the technology, they're not experts at evaluating risk.

They can easily make bad decisions on the internet like subscribing to expensive game sites or sharing contact information with strangers. Mistakes can cause a lot of damage. Everything from expensive ransomware infections, identity theft, loss of friendships and worse.

Whilst in school the teachers will ensure that only safe usage of the internet occurs in lessons. Parents can help this process by helping us to uphold our 'no phones in school rule'.

Empower your children to handle issues

Talk to your children about how they are using the internet.

Keep tablets/ computers where you can see them, keep an eye on the sites that they are visiting to ensure suitability. Ask them to keep the sound up and avoid headphones, so you can listen-in, on audio content.

Your children may have to deal with unwanted situations online such as cyber bullying, unwanted contact or hurtful comments. Work with them on strategies for when problems may arise, such as talking to a trusted adult, not retaliating or blocking access. Urge them to help if friends are making unwise choices or finding themselves in a difficult situation.

Set guidelines

You pay for the internet, be assertive about how it is used!

Your child can survive quite easily with NO internet access!

- Set **guidelines** in relation to internet and Ipad usage, when it can be used and for how long.
- Encourage your child/en to take **breaks** and engage in other activities away from technology.
- Filtering, blocking and parental control systems are among some of the options available. Set up **privacy** settings available on websites, Ipads and other social tools your children use.
- Encourage your child to be careful when disclosing **personal information**. A simple rule for children should be that the child should **not** give out their name, phone number or photo without your approval. Regardless of privacy settings, once material is online you can no longer control who sees it or how it is used.

This guidance will be regularly reviewed. Please share any suggestions or concerns with us on info.dring@newtonschools.sch.qa

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