Internet Safety

The Internet can be just as dangerous as everyday life. There are things that you need to watch out for and information that you should always keep confidential while surfing the Internet. If you follow these simple rules, you will be surfing safely in no time.

When surfing online, always remember WWW

Who is going to see it?

What am I sharing?

Why do they need it?

Tips to stay safe online

- Think twice if anyone asks you for your name, address, phone number, password, school name, parent's name, picture of yourself, credit card number, or any other personal information.
- Ignore messages you get from people you don't know.
- Never agree to meet face-to-face with someone you have met online without discussing it with your parents first.
- Don't pay for services without first getting your parents' permission.
- If you do happen to receive pornographic material or a threatening email, save the material and tell you're parents immediately.

Chat room safety

If you choose to go in chat rooms, you must be careful about who you talk to and what you talk about.

- Meeting someone in a chat room means you have no way of knowing who this person really is.
- Don't share personal information in a chat room that you wouldn't share in public.
- Keep in mind that meeting people online can be dangerous.
- If someone invites you into a private chat room, know that these chat rooms are not monitored for inappropriate conduct and you may be getting yourself into something dangerous.
- Ignore mean messages.
- If someone sends you messages or images with obscene or indecent material, report him or her to your Internet service provider.
- Choose a screen name that is gender neutral and doesn't reveal your personal information.

Talk with your parents about where you go and what you do on the Internet. Make sure you know what you should report as a crime and where to report it.

Visit www.StaySafeOnline.org for more information on staying safe online.

NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL