TOP 10 TIPS FOR STAYING SAFE ONLINE

The internet is a wonderful place full of useful information. It’s great to meet people who share your interests or hobbies but please be aware that not everything you read is true and that people online are not always who they say they are. Stay safe by sticking to these ten simple rules:

1) Maintain your privacy – don’t share personal details, passwords or anything else that could be used to identify you or steal your identity.

2) Protect your online reputation – don’t post anything that you wouldn’t be happy for your head teacher or future employer to see.

3) Think before you post – is it true? Could it be hurtful? Is it a breach of someone else’s privacy?

4) Respect the law – unauthorised free downloads mean that your favourite artists don’t receive royalties and often contain spyware or other viruses.

5) Use technology to stay safe – make sure you have up to date anti-virus and anti-spyware, enable “safe search” on your internet browser and always have a screen saver with a password.

6) Less is more – don’t accept friend requests, emails, IMs, images or texts from people you don’t know.

7) Be careful if you decide to meet up with someone you’ve met on-line – take a friend, tell an adult and always meet in a public place.

8) Respect other people’s views, even if you don’t agree with them, don’t be rude and don’t respond to trolls it only encourages them.

9) If you’ve read or seen something online that makes you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or worried; leave the web site and tell a trusted adult or report it immediately.

10) Check and double check people or information you find online before you trust them. Look at other web sites, check books or ask someone who you know well and trust.

For more information visit www.childnet.com or www.staysafeonline.org