

# Technology Guide



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**Apps:** An app is a piece of software. It can run on your computer, phone or electronic device.

**Blog:** Short for web log, this is an online journal that users update.

**Cyberbully:** A cyberbully is like the traditional playground bully, but the harassment of his or her victims takes place online.

**Friending:** Friending describes the act of making friends online through sites such as Bebo, Myspace and Facebook.

**Podcast/vodcast:** Downloadable items that can be listened to via your computer and/or portable music player. Podcasts usually contain only audio while a vodcast contains audio and video.

**Skype:** A software application that allows users to make voice and video calls over the internet.

**Tagging:** A label assigned to content on the internet in order to find it more easily through searches.

**Wi-Fi:** Wireless technology enabling devices such as laptops or a mobile phones to easily connect to the Internet anywhere in the home.

## Parent's Guide to Online Safety



**T**he internet has fast become an integral part of young people's lives. It opens up educational and social opportunities, giving children access to a world of information and experiences.

Whether on a computer at school, a laptop at home, a games console or a tablet, children and young people are increasing their access to the internet whenever and wherever they can.

Just as you would endeavour to protect your child in the real world, it is just as important to protect them in the virtual world - as they face real risks online.

Wi-Fi connections now operate in most homes, giving children the chance to access the internet anywhere in their home in private - changing the way in which children now communicate.

If you understand the internet and get to know the sites your children often visit, you will understand what the risks can be.

If your child understands these risks, they can make sensible and informed choices and get the most positive experience from going online.

There are a number of things you can do that will make your child safer online.

## What do I need to know about it?

Overall, young people have a very positive experience surfing the web or chatting with friends online. But as a parent or guardian there are some potential risks you should be aware of:



**Cyber bullying**



**Identify theft**



**Inappropriate and harmful content**



**Grooming**

If your child is being cyber bullied, encourage them to come to you for help. If they are uncomfortable speaking with you, tell them to speak with a trusted adult - an aunt, uncle, teacher, or older sibling. Be sure your child knows how to report abuse or inappropriate behaviour to social networking sites. With Facebook, for example, they can report abuse by clicking on the report link.

## What can I do as a parent?



**Check privacy policies**



**Discuss how people can misrepresent themselves online**



**Install anti-virus software**



**Consider where the computer is placed in your home**