

Action for Children's netsmart rules



in partnership with
Microsoft



Always

- ▶ Always keep your password secret and don't share it with anyone.
- ▶ Always ask your parent or carer for permission before you start a blog or join a social networking site (like MySpace, Bebo or Facebook) and before you accept someone new on to your list of friends or IM buddies. The same goes for Skyping. Use a nickname, not your real name, when you log on.
- ▶ Always set your profile to private and only allow people you know to see your information. When you join a new service, get help from your parent/carer or another adult you trust to fill in the forms on the internet.
- ▶ Always be very careful in chatrooms, IM sessions and on bulletin boards. Even if it says they are only for children, there is no way to tell if everyone there really is a child – it might be an adult or an older child trying to trick you.
- ▶ Always get out of a chatroom if someone says or writes something that makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, and make sure you tell your parent or carer.
- ▶ Always be yourself and don't pretend to be someone or something you are not.
- ▶ Always stay away from sites that say they are for people over 18. The warnings are there to protect you.

Never

- ▶ Never tell anyone you meet on the internet your home address, your telephone number or your school's name, unless you already know and trust the person and your parent or carer gives you permission.
- ▶ Never send anyone your picture, credit card or bank details, or anything else, without first checking with your parent or carer.
- ▶ Never agree to meet anyone you only know through the internet unless your parent or carer gives you permission and goes with you or they arrange for another trusted adult to go with you. Only meet in a brightly lit public place where there will be lots of other people around. People you meet online are not always who or what they claim to be.
- ▶ Never open emails or attachments to emails unless they come from someone you already know and trust. They could contain viruses that could damage your computer or phone.
- ▶ Never respond to nasty or suggestive messages. Always tell your parent or carer if you get emails or texts like that or if you see rude pictures while you're online. You might need to report them to your internet service provider or the police. Check out www.ceop.gov.uk and www.thinkuknow.co.uk
- ▶ Never use the internet to rip off music, videos or other stuff you know you should really pay for. It could get you and your parents or carers into a lot of trouble.



as long as it takes