

Developing Internet 'skills'

Swimming pools can be dangerous places, so we teach children to swim. Crossing the road can be dangerous, so we teach children road safety skills. We do not stop young people from swimming or crossing roads! So too, we must teach them how to be safe online so they can have fun, enjoy creative aspects and benefit from the learning opportunities. We must however still be aware of danger signs so we can deal with them.



Go through the useful rules with your child. Talk to them regularly about what they are doing. Build a relationship of mutual respect as far as the Internet is concerned.

Using the Internet safely at home

Some useful 'rules' to keep young people safe, discuss these with your child:

- never give out any personal information about yourself, friends or family online including home address, phone or mobile number;
- never email your school name or a picture in school uniform (even to a friend);
- only use a web cam with people you really know 'off-line';
- don't use a web cam to do something that exposes you to danger or embarrassment;
- avoid going to websites you could not tell your parents about;
- only email people you know;
- be careful before opening an email attachment sent by someone you don't know – if in doubt do not open, and delete it;
- be careful about 'pop-ups' that say you have won something;
- don't use your real name when using games or websites on the Internet, (create a nick name);
- where you are old enough to use social networking sites (usually 13yrs+), know how to keep your profile private;
- use Internet chat rooms, online gamesharing spaces, instant messaging etc., with caution and know how to block and report unwanted users;
- be aware that comments you make on message boards, Blogs, Wikis etc., can be viewed by others;
- never arrange to meet anyone alone, always tell an adult first and meet in a public place;
- tell an adult you trust immediately if you encounter anything you are unhappy with;
- report concerns using the report abuse button which can be found on many sites.



This takes you to a site managed by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) www.ceop.gov.uk. **Make sure your child knows how to report abuse online....**

Possible danger signs you should look out for

If your child is:

- using the computer in an excessive way
- staying online through the night
- being secretive about what they are doing.

These signs may be perfectly innocent of course, so talk to your daughter or son.



Danger signs your child should know about

- If a person tries various ways to get you to tell them your address or phone number
- If a person wants to keep their chats with you secret

- If a person shares information with you and tells you not to tell anyone else about it
- If a person emails you pictures which make you feel uncomfortable and which you would not want to show to anyone else
- If a person wants you to email them pictures of yourself or use a webcam in a way which makes you feel uncomfortable
- If a person tells you that you will get into trouble if you tell an adult what has been going on.

Useful E-safety Websites for Parents

Child-net International: www.childnet-int.org/kia/parents

Think U Know: www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

MyGuide: www.myguide.gov.uk

Vodafone support: <http://parents.vodafone.com/>

http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/5_7/hectorsworld/safetybutton.aspx

To download the Hectors world safety button. If something appears that the child doesn't like/finds alarming it blanks the screen while the child tells an adult.

Ask Jeeves: www.askkids.com or Yahoo! Kids: www.kids.yahoo.com are child friendly search engines which won't display adult images.



Social Networking for Children: *know a bit more about what your child is doing online at home.*

In July 2008 an official report by media regulator Ofcom found that more than a quarter of eight- to 11-year-olds in the UK regularly use social networking sites designed for older children and teenagers, and the number is rising. It is also known that 33% of UK parents set no social networking rules for their children. Over the last few months it's become apparent that children in Primary schools, as young as Year 1, have access to accounts on a variety of social networking arenas. For some children their access is limited to child friendly networking and playing. Highly regulated sites such as Club Penguin provide some of the safest environments for the children to have fun. In August 2009 The Times Online published an article outlining the most popular social networking sites for children aged 5-11:

ClubPenguin.com (28 million users)	Poptropica.com (80 million users)	Neopets.com (54 million users)
Stardoll.com (34 million users)	MoshiMonsters.com (2 million users)	FreeRealms.com (4 million users)

In **Club Penguin**, users take on a penguin persona and waddle around a frozen world, making friends and earning coins to buy virtual objects. Staff at schools in the US have been using Club Penguin to teach e-safety. They register the children for the 'free' accounts and then use the interaction between character elements to look at cyber bullying and being safe on the internet.



Poptropica is a virtual world, which is used by millions of pupil all around the world, engaging them in narrative quests and online games. Children create an avatar (a virtual them) to travel, collect objects, compete in head-to-head competition and safely communicate with other children. Created by Family Education Network, part of Pearson, the site is one of the largest online gaming communities for ages 6-15.





Moshi Monsters is a site where students register and adopt a monster. The site is monitored and is promoted as fun, safe and educational. It is a social networking site, which also incorporates elements of a Virtual World. They cater for both girls and boys. Some schools are now using Moshi Monsters as a teaching tool. Looking at Moshi Monster in the classroom; it has links to several subjects such as PSHE, numeracy, literacy and visual discrimination. Firstly, you have to adopt a monster, name it and then begin to look after it. The monster blossoms under increasing levels of interaction. Your monster has its own house and when you leave it you can go shopping in to buy ornaments, furniture and food. The game also contains some elements of social networking tools such as the notice board and the friend finder. These elements encourage children to communicate via written messages and this helps to develop their understanding of communicating and also about maintaining relationships with their friends. Check out the info on this blog: <http://mindcandy.com/category/moshi-monsters/>



Stardoll is a website game based around the cut and paste paper doll concept. Launched in 2006, the website targets girls and boys between the ages of 9 and 17 who dress up dolls using a range of tools and can participate in interactive activities depending on the type of account they use. Lots of fashion houses and celebrities with clothing ranges are now using Stardoll to target young girls. The children also have the ability to chat to each other about fashion.



Free Realms is a free 3-D virtual world. The look and feel of the site is very cartoony and the gameplay is a much less violent version of War Hammer. Again you create your character before you start to play. You can also create your own pet, mine for gold, cook up a meal or race a car. The levels of personal choice within the game are enormous, plus children develop and use a range of thought processes to complete in-game tasks. Free Realms also allows social networking where children meet up friends on their profile page. Due to this social networking aspect of the game, you should be aware that players are able to send links, share images and videos, and as well as chat with their friends. This can, however, be restricted by parents who wish to stop a child's access to user generated content.

Most of the sites above are interactive and provide methods for learning about working, earning income, saving and making life choices. The children establish their own controls for the worlds/characters they create and most of the sites are about stimulating imagination and developing thinking skills, as well as some skill slinked to the curriculum. These places are fun environments where children can play and learn. Staff need to be aware of what happens within these sites so that they can react to any issues arising. For further information and support with any safeguarding issues arising from this, please contact: andrew.dickenson@netlinc.org.uk or charlotte.smith@cfbt.com

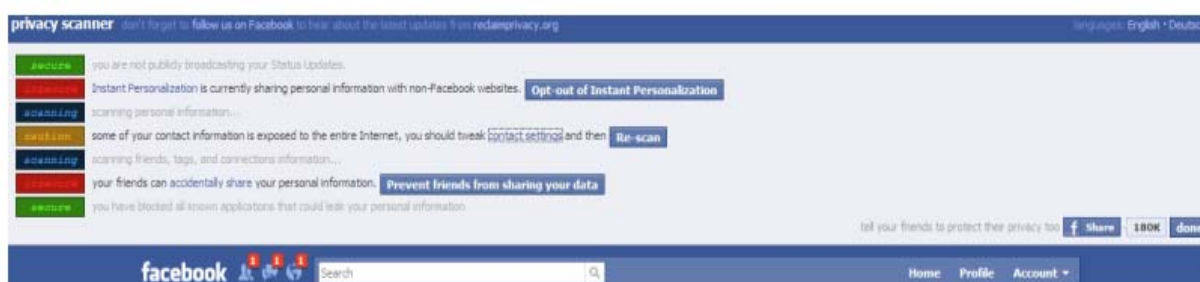


How do I know if my facebook settings are safe?

You can scan your facebook settings and see if they are safe by using the link below. It is easy to follow..... Click on the link and then add it to your favourites. Once you are logged into facebook, go to settings and then click on the website from your favourites. It automatically scans and sees if you need to amend any of your settings to make them more secure.

Look at the picture below to see how it scans and then helps you to become safer.... It is a brilliant way to keep EVERYONE safe on facebook! Please make young people aware of this tool...

<http://www.reclaimprivacy.org/>

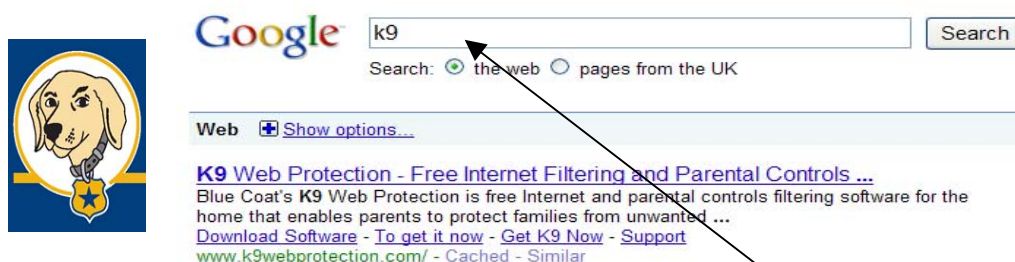


Privacy Settings > Profile Information

[← Back to Privacy](#) [Preview My Profile...](#)

Bio and favorite quotations The bio description and Favorite Quotations in the About Me section of your profile	Friends Only
Likes and Interests Interests, Activities, Favorites	Friends Only
Birthday Birth date and Year	Friends Only
Religious and political views	Friends Only

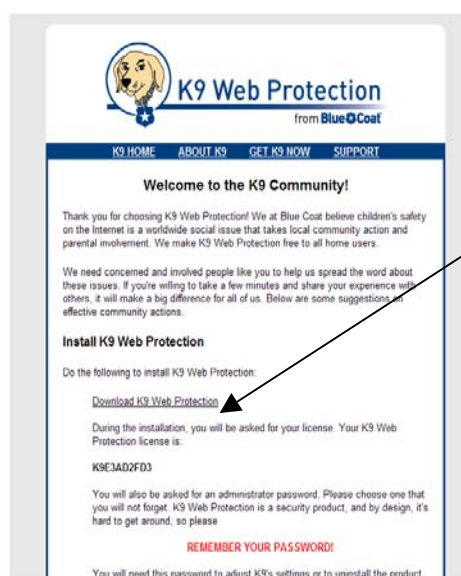
How to Download FREE Web Filtering and Parental Controls



In any search engine, type in K9. Click on the option related to Web protection....

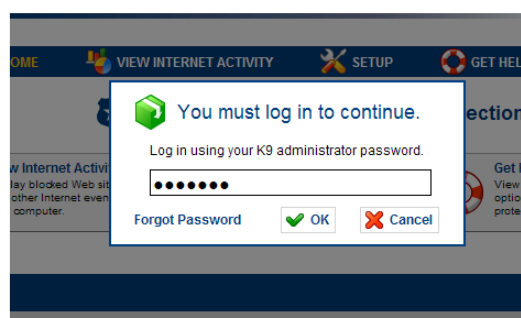


Go to the K9 homepage and register for the software. They will send you an email with an installation number....



The email will have your installation number – write this down.

Create a password for your account too. Make sure the children don't know what this is!



Download Software

K9 Web Protection will run on Microsoft® Windows XP, Microsoft® Windows Vista, Microsoft® Windows 7 and Mac OS X 10.4.7 and higher.
It requires very little disk space, memory, or processing power. We recommend that you have about 25 MB of free disk space available for log files.
You will need a K9 Web Protection license *before* you install the software. [Click here](#) to get your license if you have not already.

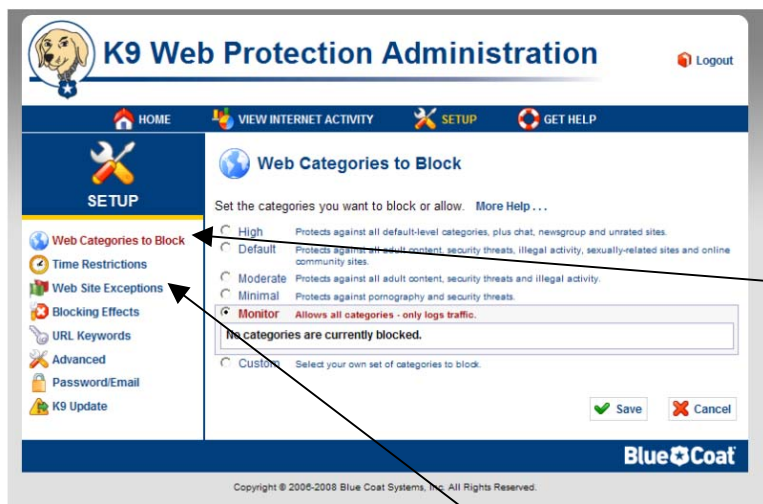


You can now download the software. There is a wizard which will do this for you. Click on the options which best suits the right download for your PC. There is a separate option for Mac users.

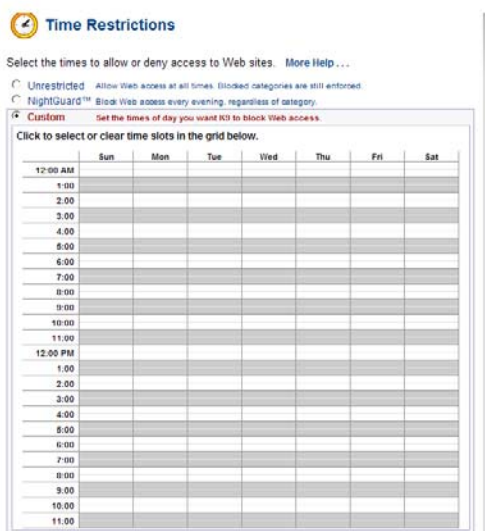
Check what website the children have been on by going to 'View Internet Activity'



Once downloaded, click on the logo on your desktop and open up the home page. Click on 'set up' – here is where you will set time restrictions and set the web filters for your children



Go to 'web categories to block' on the left hand side and select which type of block you would like – high, default, moderate, minimal, monitor or custom.



Time restrictions can also be changed by using the menu on the left hand side. You can customise it so your child has an hours internet use, at the same time every night – then it will block. This stops arguments of "just 5 minutes more..."

You can set blocking effects – so the dog barks if the children try to go on a page that is blocked!

Blocking Effects

Set general blocking options. [More Help...](#)

☒ **Bark When Blocked** Play a bark sound when K9 blocks a Web page.

☒ **Show Admin Options** Display administrative options on block pages, such as allowing overrides.

☐ **Enable Time Out** Disable Web access if too many pages are blocked within a given time period.

If there are blocked pages within