



**98% of young people in Ireland use the Internet. 44% are online everyday.
28% access the Internet through personal devices like mobile phones and games machines.**

Young people are primarily going online to make friends, play games, download music, and do their homework. As parents, the most important thing you can do to reduce the online risks is to engage with their digital lifestyle.

10 TIPS FOR PARENTS

1. Discover the Internet together

Be the one to introduce your child to the Internet. This could make it easier to share both positive and negative experiences in the future.

2. Agree with your child on rules for Internet use

Try to reach an agreement with your child on how long they should spend online and what types of sites and activities are ok.

3. Encourage your child to be careful when disclosing personal information

They should be selective about what personal information and photos they post to online spaces. Once material is online it is subject to all kinds of unauthorised use.

4. Talk about the risks associated with meeting online friends

Young people are making friends online but they should only physically meet these strangers in the company of an adult or others they trust.

5. Teach your child about 'source criticism' on the Internet

Not all information found online is correct. Educate your children on how to verify information they find.

6. Don't be too critical towards your child's exploration of the Internet

Remember, it is not always their fault if they come across inappropriate content on the Web.

7. Report online material you may consider illegal to the appropriate authorities

It is important that we all take responsibility for the Web and report matters which we believe could be illegal to www.hotline.ie.

8. Encourage respect for others

As in everyday life there are informal ethical rules for how to behave when relating to other people on the Internet.

9. Know your child's Internet use

To be able to guide your child's Internet use, whether it's on their mobile phone or PC, it is important to understand how children use the Internet and know what they like to do online.

10. Remember that the positive aspects of the Internet outweigh the negative aspects

The Internet is an excellent educational and recreational resource for children. Encourage your child to be Webwise and explore the Internet to its full potential.

Find out more at www.webwise.ie.

Webwise is the NCTE's Internet safety initiative. Webwise provides internet safety information, advice, and tools to parents, teachers, and students.

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