

## The Facts

- The number of people who engage in this silly and hurtful activity is very small.
- **There are far more good messages than bad. Don't let this spoil the internet for you.**
- People who send viruses or malware are breaking the law. Report it when you can.
- **By reporting this and asking for help you are not only proving you are a responsible internet user, you are making the web safer for all of us.**
- There are simple steps you can take to stop this happening, and for dealing with it should it ever happen again.
- **We can beat the email scammer.**
- Every adult in your home needs to read this leaflet.
- **Tell your friends if you think there are scam emails about.**
- Remember, talking about it is the first step to making it stop.
- Ask your parents to install Internet Explorer 8 with Zip it, Block it, Flag it buttons. Then **YOU** are in charge.
- **Together, we can make everyone in East Sussex E-Safe.**
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## Further information

You may find these sites useful.

### The UK Council for Child Internet Safety. (UKCCIS)

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/ukccis/>

### Microsoft Windows Parental Controls

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-GB/windows-vista/Kids-online-A-parents-guide-to-monitoring-computer-use>

### The Child Exploitation and Online Protection website (CEOP)

<http://www.ceop.gov.uk/>

### The Byron Report (An investigation into online safety for children and young people by Dr Tanya Byron)

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/byronreview/>

### Parent's centre ( A government resource for parents who want to know more about e-safety.)

<http://www.parentscentre.gov.uk/usingcomputersandtheinternet/>

# Internet Myths for Parents and Carers

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**There is nothing wrong in my child having a games station in his/her bedroom**

**Wrong.** Online, world-wide gaming is now widespread. It is possible to get addicted to online games in exactly the same way it is possible to get addicted to drugs. Fraudsters and paedophiles know that children with games stations in their bedrooms are easy targets – especially if they are online at 2:00am – they know you are not watching.

**There is nothing wrong with my child having unrestricted internet access in their bedroom.**

**Wrong.** There may well be a good case for them having some privacy to do online homework. But recently an 11 year old child became addicted to online pornography because of this. His parents had no idea. By the age of 12, he had a criminal conviction and was on the Sexual Offenders Register. You can easily restrict not only where their bedroom internet connection can take them, but also you can limit when they can go online.

**I don't need to know much about computers – my child knows enough for both of us.**

**Wrong.** Well, possibly they do. But they also *think* they know more than they actually do. Remember, myths abound out there and children tend to believe what they want to

believe. You are right, though, it is a different world to the one we grew up in. We need to be a part of it. Let your child teach you what they know about online safety, and then take a view on whether or not you are happy. There are courses for e-safety that your child's school can organise for parents and carers.

**Computer games are great these days – and it is a totally harmless way of them playing.**

**Wrong.** Many of the games available are extremely violent. There is research that proves that there is a link between addiction to violent online games, and aggression in the real world. A little “shoot –em- up” now and then is fine, but please take a look at the graphics now available – some are disturbing and many games are age-related. This, of course, makes children who are too young want to play them all the more.

**If I never let my child near a computer, they will be safe. I have the right to remove my children from IT lessons in school.**

**Wrong.** Your child has the right under the Education Act to access the curriculum. Only RE and sex education are exempt from this. No-one has the right to forbid your child accessing what is a legal entitlement in school, however, there is a way you can feel comfortable about them using the internet. Talk to your child's school and ask them to

provide an e-safety parent evening. Ask your questions, and listen to not only how your school keeps your child safe online, but how you can do so at home. There are far more advantages than disadvantages in living, working and playing in a connected world.

**If schools have a filter, it is totally impossible for any unpleasant content to get into the classroom.**

**Wrong.** Filters can be very effective – but no filter can ever be 100% effective. Your child's school should have a way of dealing promptly and professionally with any material that creeps past the electronic nanny! Remember, children, as they grow, quickly learn how to bypass filters, and most parents give their child unlimited access to the internet in the form of their mobile phones!

**I have location software on my child's mobile phone. I always know where they are all the time.**

**Wrong** You know where the phone is – not the child. There has been a lot of discussion about location software and how useful/not useful/dangerous it might be. Some systems allow users to have a map that pinpoints where the child's phone is – and some parents have been known to put this on their Facebook homepage! Not a good idea. Again, location software can be discussed as part of a school E-Safety evening.