

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL NOIDA

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Important Guidelines for Internet Use

The internet was initially designed as a tool to facilitate communication and research activities. Over the years, a significant development in technology has made the internet available and affordable for all. Internet offers us a pool of information and is easily the most convenient way to gain information and stay connected with our loved ones.

The internet revolution has ushered in an era of change, especially in the lives of the children. However, it has also made them vulnerable to threats like cyber abuse, cybercrimes and internet addiction. In view of the increasing prevalence and incidence of the same, the school would like to make some suggestions to parents to promote safe and effective use of internet and digital technology by the students.

1. Discover the Internet together

Be the one to introduce your child to the internet. It is advantageous for both the parents and the children to discover the internet together. Try to find web sites that are exciting and fun so that together you achieve a positive attitude to Internet exploration. This could make it easier to share both positive and negative experiences in the future.

2. Explain the implications

Help your children understand the public nature of the internet and its risks as well as benefits. Make sure that they know that any information shared digitally can easily be copied and pasted elsewhere, and is almost impossible to take back. Things that can damage their reputation, friendships or future prospects should not be shared electronically.

3. Mutually set the rules for internet use at home

Try to reach an agreement with your child on the guidelines which apply to Internet use in your household. Here are some tips to get started:

- Discuss when and for how long it is acceptable for your child to use the Internet
- Reach an agreement on the disclosure of personal information (name, address, telephone, e-mail)
- Discuss the ethical use of internet when gaming, chatting, e-mailing or messaging

- Agree on the type of sites and activities that are safe and unsafe.

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

It is important to be aware that many web pages made for children ask them for personal information in order to access personalised content. Being conscious of when and where it is all right to reveal personal information is vital. A simple rule for younger children could be that the child should **not** give out name, age, address, phone number or photo without your approval.

Older children using social networking sites like Facebook should be selective about what personal information and photos they post to online spaces. Teach your social networking teenagers how to use and apply the privacy and security settings of the site. All responsible sites have a Safety Centre and a Block and Reporting system. Learn together with your teen how to use the safety and security settings of the site.

5. Teach your child about evaluating information and being critically aware of information found online.

Most children use the Internet to improve and develop knowledge for schoolwork and personal interests. Children should be aware that not all information found online is correct, accurate or relevant. Educate children on how to verify information they find by comparing to alternative sources on the same topic. Show them trusted sites they can use to compare information.

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

It is vital that we all take responsibility for the Web and report matters, which we believe could be illegal. By doing this we can help to prevent illegal activities online, such as child-pornography or attempts to lure children via chat, mail or messaging.

7. Encourage respect for others

There is a code of conduct for the internet. It includes being polite, respectful and sensitive to others' privacy online. Talk to your children about carrying themselves ethically when using the internet. For more information on the ethical use of internet, the parents can check the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on this link <http://infosecawareness.in/infosec-concept/internet-ethics>

8. Make your children aware about the cybercrimes and online dangers

It is important that the parents be aware and educated about malicious websites, applications and the various cybercrimes and educate their children about the same. Encourage them to discuss with you before they download or install any game/application/software as it could possibly harm the device being used. The

children should know that they must not open/download any attachment from an unknown source.

9. Encourage your child to develop other hobbies.

It is important that the parents encourage their children to develop other hobbies so that they don't spend all their leisure time on the internet. This will also help to minimise children's chances of getting addicted to the internet.

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

The Internet is an excellent educational and recreational resource for children. There are millions of age appropriate sites for younger children. Encourage your children to use such sites and to avoid registering for sites and services with adult content and behaviours. Help your child read the Terms & Conditions of Service for any site which they wish to join and to comply with the age restrictions of the site. Help your child apply all the privacy and security settings on the site. Encourage your child to be critically aware and explore the Internet to its full potential.