The Facts

➢ You will only ever hear the "dark side" of e-safety in the media.

➢ **Billions of successful and positive uses of the internet happen every minute of every day**.

➢ Children need to understand why something is not safe...it is no good just blocking it… they **will** find a way!

➢ Children are naturally curious. They will use Google to search for things, even though they may not know what it is they are searching for.

➢ You child's school teaches e-safety to all its users. There is a taught scheme of work for e-safety.

➢ You can make the e-safety talks fun.

➢ Involve them. Ask them to show you their online world.

➢ Understand that as they grow, their needs will grow too. The only constant is your expectation that they should **behave responsibly online.**

➢ **Together, we can make everyone in East Sussex E-Safe**.

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/

E-Safety at home

Having an e-Safety discussion at home

East Sussex
County Council

Why talk about e-safety at home?
Children live and work in an increasingly online world. It is easy to think that if you have good anti-virus, firewall and anti-malware software, that "e-safety" is sorted. While these products undoubtedly help, e-safety is not a technological thing, it is a behavioural one. What we actually do online is what puts us at risk.**.**

Is it ALL bad out there?
NO! Far from it. In the UK alone, there are 44 million internet users. Just think about how many successful and positive internet uses happen every minute of every day. **The only thing that parents and carers will ever hear about in the media is when things go wrong.** It is easy to be scared by it.

"I don't understand what my child does online. I am not very "E"
One of the best ways of learning about the highly beneficial world of the internet is by asking the experts to show you… your own child!. Get them to show you their favourite websites. (Pay attention to where they **don't** click, as well as where they do!)

Talk, Talk , Talk-
FACT:- People who might abuse the internet or other users on it rely on the fact that talking about e-safety is uncomfortable. They would far rather we didn't discuss it, because talking about it brings it into the light of day which is the last place these people want it to be.

So…..
1) **Talk about e-safety,** particularly when there has been some bad press about it.
2) Make it **"OK To Tell".** This is harder than you might think. Imagine you are, say, a 12 year old child and you have accidentally seen something online of a sexual nature. How easy would it be to talk to your mum or dad about it? Letting your child know that they can tell you anything **without overreacting** is a key message from children. "We don't tell, because parents and teachers go over the top."
3) **Acceptable Use Rules at Home?** Yes, why not? Schools and businesses have them for all users. What you allow and what you don't is up to you, and it will need to develop over time. E-safety is never something that you can tick the box and say "Done".
4) **Talk to your school.** Your child's school has not only gone through this process, but they are going through it regularly. You can use their experiences. You can adapt their Acceptable Use Policy for your home if you want to. The important thing is to take your child with you on the journey. They may have a lot of questions, mainly beginning with "Why…"

5) **Social Networking? Children want Facebook.** And they want it from a surprisingly young age. Facebook has an age restriction of 13 for good reasons. While Social Networking has its value, peer pressure is forcing more and more children to want this particular product. They need to understand why it isn't a good idea. If you do allow them to have a Facebook or any other social networking account, it is a good idea to insist that **YOU** are in their friends list. That way you can keep an eye on how many "friends" they are building up. You can make Facebook safer by using the FacebookCEOP application. This is available from http://www.CEOP.gov.uk Once added it provides access to online help and sends a message to anyone who looks at the page.
6) **And the big one.**..**What To do if Something Happens.** The short answer is that you need to assess the situation, and to involve your child in the response. If you consider it necessary to report it to the authorities, your child needs to know why this is important and that they will be supported. **It is, thankfully, unlikely you will ever find yourself in this position.** Talking about the internet, email, instant messaging and social networking regularly will considerably minimize the risk.