

Internet Safety

A special thank you to
Det. Robert Farley, Commanding Officer
Cook County (Illinois) Sheriff's Department
Specializing in Online Child Exploitation
and
Morris Murray, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
Defiance County
for their contributions of knowledge
on this pertinent subject.

Fact or Fiction

91% of St. Mary's students
have computers at home - **FACT**

The Internet can be an excellent learning source - **FACT**

Everything you read on the Internet is true - **FICTION**

Information about a website is available by going to
TOOLS and SHOW RELATED LINKS - **FACT**

There is no way to check what past Internet sites
have been accessed on your computer - **FICTION**

You can access chat archives - **FACT**

St. Mary School cares about your child and wants their
Internet experiences to be enjoyable *and* safe - **FACT**

DID YOU KNOW?

There is a free download that can allow a person to access and download information from your HD while in a chatroom.

The same download will allow you to be seen via a webcam, even if the webcam is turned off.

The evolution of online crimes began in 1997.

It has rapidly become common for perpetrators to have initial contact with minors through the internet.

Children are lured by online predators with offers of money, gifts and other “perks.”

Police investigators often pose as children in chat rooms in an attempt to catch the perpetrators.

The mere possession of material, pornographic in nature, involving minors is a felony crime under Ohio Law.

Defiance County has prosecuted several individuals for possessing, reproducing or disseminating material of minors.

This indicates the problem is pervasive and not just some far off issue being dealt with in metropolitan areas.

Child predators think they are doing the child a favor.

Related Websites

<http://www.fbi.gov>
(links "For the Family"; FBI for Kids)

<http://www.smartparent.com>

<http://www.safekids.com>

<http://www.ou.edu/oupd/kidsafe/kidmenu.htm>

<http://www.safetyed.org>
(links "Internet Safety Education" - Parents)

<http://www.cookcountysheriff.org>
(link "Internet Safety Tips")

<http://www.disney.go.com/surfswell/index.html>

<http://www.wiredkids.org>

<http://www.getnetwise.org>

<http://www.childrenspartnership.org>

Recommended Search Engines for Kids

<http://www.yahooligans.com>

<http://www.sunsite.berkeley.edu/KidsClick!>

<http://www.kinderstart.com>

<http://www.awesomelibrary.org>

<http://www.route616.com>

<http://www.ajkids.com>

<http://www.homeworkplanet.com>

**Suggestions for making the
Internet a safe place for your
child to visit:**

1. Place the computer in a common, well-traveled area of your home so there is no secrecy.
2. Compose a Parent/Child Agreement for computer use and post it near the computer. Include a time limit.
3. Install a filter on your computer for Internet use. Most Internet Service Providers (ISP) have filters available. At St. Mary's we use Bess, which is provided for us by MetaLink. If your ISP does not offer a filtering service, you may purchase filters such as CyberPatrol, NetNanny, and SurfWatch.
4. **DO NOT** fill out a profile on the internet.
 - a.) If your child absolutely has to fill out a profile do not allow them to use their real name, home address, or home e-mail address.
 - b.) They should **never** share their password with anyone except their parents.
 - c.) They should put special thought into their username and keep it wholesome and unprovocative so as not to invite trouble.
5. When you use a chat program, set the Privacy Preferences so any information that may have been provided in a profile is not available for the public. This is, also, where you would block strangers from having a conversation with your child.
6. Do a search, yourself, to see if your child's profile is public. All chat programs have a place to check for profiles. If your child's name appears, they have a public profile available online. Depending on the chat program - there are several ways to see the actual profile. If, for example, ICQ is the chat program, you will need to do a name search and click on the User Detail icon (the icon with an "i"). A box of details will appear with several categories to be clicked.

7. Take time to learn what your child is doing on the computer. Have them teach you how to use a chat program. They will enjoy teaching you and you will gain knowledge of what they are doing.
8. If you have a webcam, only allow your child to use it when you are present and **always** keep the eye covered when you are not using the camera.
9. If you have any concerns, at all, about your child's online activity, check the Internet History. Also, some chat programs save an archive of conversations.
10. **BE CAUTIOUS!** Remind your child that no matter how friendly a stranger seems to be - they are exactly that - a stranger. A person may say he/she is a 10 year old from Japan and in reality, is a 45 year old living two houses away.
11. If you do not want your child using the computer when you are not home there are several ways you can disable the computer. You can disconnect the power cord, disconnect the telephone cable, unplug the mouse or keyboard, or even, store your computer in a cabinet/armoire that can be locked.

If some of these suggestions seem extreme,
please remember, we are talking about your
child's safety.

We want your child to have an enjoyable
and safe internet experience!

If you have questions about any information
in this brochure contact:

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<http://www.stmary.pvt.k12.oh.us>