



Regional Support Centre
East Midlands

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Why E-Safety?

A summary of the reasons for teaching e-safety to adults and young people.

- The case for e-safety is simple - just as we don't send children out onto the roads without lessons in road safety, so we shouldn't send people out onto the information highways of the internet without giving them some guidance as to how to stay safe, both personally and financially. This is a green cross code for internet and PC use.
- [Squirrels are optional.](#)



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- Well, yes, it's obvious, but it hasn't been done consistently so far in education establishments.
 - Becta are now pushing for e-safety to be a part of every child's curriculum. See "Safeguarding children in a digital world"
 - This is because information technology is becoming a large part of every learner's learning experience, from pre-school through university to lifelong learners.

- Quote from “Safeguarding Children”
- “With the launch in 2005 of the Government’s e-strategy, ‘**Harnessing technology: Transforming learning and children’s services**’, the prospects for children and learners of all ages to embrace the new opportunities offered by ICT are set to grow.
- What we must ensure, however, is that the e-safety aspects are not left to chance. Children and indeed learners of all ages need to develop digital literacy skills that help them to become safe and responsible users of new technologies, and allow them to be discriminating users of both the content they discover and the contacts they make when online.”

- Becta's main concern is with young people, although in their literature they do say that the principles can be extended to lifelong learners.
- Given that many people of all ages are now using IT for educational purposes, it is clear that they too need to develop digital literacy skills so that they can become 'safe and responsible users'.
- Also many adults not in lifelong learning will be parents and need to be aware of the issues in relation to their children's safety.

Don't Panic

- Scare stories and horror stories of the internet abound – they are the staple fare of the tabloids in a slow news week.
- As with road safety, tutors will need to promote awareness of safe practice without putting people off using IT for fear of the potential dangers.

- **Illegal or inappropriate content**
 - Copyright issues
 - Plagiarism
 - Pornography
 - Social network software
- **Contact**
 - Inappropriate contact with adults
 - Bullying
 - Financial risks