10 Tips for Keeping Safe Online

1) Keep the computer in a common room in the house and position the monitor so it's available for public viewing.

2) Establish rules for using the Internet and teach our children important safety guidelines.

3) Understand social networking. Teach your kids that people online are not always who they say they are.   Popular social networking sites are a favourite hunting ground for predators. Teach your children how to use the privacy settings and to keep identifying information off their blogs.

4) Tell your children to keep their personal information protected. Children should never give their real name, address, phone number, the name of their school or a picture of themselves to anyone they meet online. NEVER let your children meet in person with anyone they've met on the internet.

5) Protect your children's passwords and create generic names. Make sure your kids don't have screen names or aliases that reveal their personal information, including their full name, age, gender, etc.

6) Frequently check your computer's Internet history and monitor your children's email account. Let them know you're checking these, why you're doing it and talk about potential danger online.

7) Spend time with your children online. Have them show you their favourite sites.

8) Teach your children cyber ethics. For example, hacking into someone's computer is just as wrong as breaking into someone else's computer is just as wrong as breaking into someone else's

home. Your set rules, boundaries and codes of acceptable behaviour in the real world; do the same for the virtual world.

9) Be computer savvy. Use antivirus, antispyware and a firewall. Keep them current, but don't rely on them as your only line of defence.

10) Teach your children to tell a parent, teacher or trusted adult if they feel uncomfortable about anything they've seen on a computer.

www.staysafeonline.org

www.webwise.ie

www.kiddle.co