

Online Safety

What are the concerns about access?

The Surrey School Board believes access and use of technology is an integral component of current learning and working environments. However, the potential for misuse of technology exists, even with due diligence.

Sending or receiving inappropriate information (e.g. racist, slanderous, pornographic, threatening, sexist, confidential, etc.) or using chat rooms or polling booths for this purpose is possible.

Sophisticated search capabilities and easy access to web sites provide a wide range of information at your child's fingertips. Online contact with students by strangers with questionable motives is also a major concern.

What is the Surrey School District doing to reduce the risk of inappropriate use of technology?

Online access for all schools in B.C. is provided by the Provincial Learning Network (PLNet), a network supported from Victoria. PLNet provides virus protection service and limited blocking of inappropriate sites, such as pornography.

School district responsibilities

- To provide age appropriate instruction for students on responsible, appropriate use of the Internet.
- To make every reasonable attempt to ensure appropriate use of the Internet by students.
- To investigate suspected misuse and provide consequences for misuse of district resources.



Student responsibilities

- To follow guidelines set out by the Surrey School District and their parents regarding online use.
- To make responsible decisions around their use of technology and the internet.

Parent responsibilities

- Instruct your child to never give out identifying information - home address, school name, or telephone number - in any online setting unless you and your child know and trust the other person..
- Instruct your child regarding boundaries of what is considered acceptable use of the Internet by your family.
- Be aware of the risks in accessing the Internet.
- Emphasize to your child the importance of personal safety in online use and that people online may not be who they seem. Because you can't see or even hear the person, it would be easy for someone to misrepresent him or herself. Thus, someone indicating that "she" is a "12-year-old girl" could in reality be a 40 year-old man.
- Monitor and supervise your child's use of the Internet when not in a school setting.
- Be aware that children can access the internet and any online accounts from many different types of devices such as phones, computers, tablets, TVs and gaming systems.

Suggestions for parents

- Keep electronic devices with online access in communal areas of your home, not your child's bedroom.
- Set reasonable rules and guidelines for computer
- Create guidelines for internet use. Discuss and post them in a common place in the home as a reminder.
- Make casual checks of your child's work while they are using the Internet.
- Monitor all apps, sites, games and other online programs that your children are using through direct access to their accounts.
- Consider 'filtering' software which can block access to objectionable sites, words or phrases.

For more information and resources, visit
<http://www.psst-bc.ca/online-safety>.

The PSST website is provided by the Surrey school district's Safe Schools department.