

INDIAN SCHOOL SALALAH

CIRCULAR – SAFE USE OF INTERNET (27-08-2017)

Dear Parents,

The potential of Information technology as a valuable learning resource is immense. However, if children use the internet without safety awareness, they may fall prey to illegal activity or abuse such as cyber bullying, fraud or something even more serious. Hence, awareness of internet safety norms is absolutely indispensable to make children free to explore knowledge without feeling intimidated. Increasing proliferation and sophistication of various electronic devices makes it all the more obligatory for schools to control and monitor their use by students.

Children should be savvy about how they deal with other people (especially strangers who they could meet online), and not falling prey to an online scam artist who takes advantage of their ignorance.

Rules to follow when children are online

- They should not become online 'friends' with unknown people.
- They should not open emails or attachments from unknown people.
- Tell /inform their parents, if anything they see or read online worries them.
- They should never arrange to meet someone in person whom they have met online.
- They should not give out personal information such as address or phone number or pictures.

Using a Web Browser

Using the Web browser is easy, to do things online, but there can be some hidden dangers including exposure of sensitive personal information and infection by **malware**, which includes **viruses**, **spyware**, and **adware**. Safe browsing means being aware of these online threats and taking the necessary precautions to avoid them.

Guidelines to protect personal information and computer when online

- Change your passwords often.
- Keep your internet browser up-to-date
- Install and maintain a firewall on your computer.
- Be alert to unusual computer activity or problems.
- Use a modern browser with features such as a pop-up blocker.
- Avoid storing sensitive material indefinitely on your computer.
- Beware of links sent via instant messaging and e-mail attachments
- Install and maintain up to date anti-virus software on your computer or device.

Making friends – Important things to remember

- *Friendships made online are made by clicking a button rather than talking to people and sharing experiences.*
- *Being online 'friends' with someone is much less meaningful than face to face friendship.*
- *One can easily fall out with an online 'friend' because of a misunderstood comment.*
- *It is far easier, and healthier, to sort out arguments and problems when one can talk to someone face to face*

Tips to stay safe on social networking sites for students

- Avoid illegal downloads.
- Make sure age appropriateness of an online activity before joining.
- May use a made up name or nickname on their profile.
- Don't make friends other than persons known personally.
- May use an email address that does not include their name.
- Be very careful sharing content online
- Share pictures and videos very careful when uploading-even with known persons as it can easily be spread much further
- Use the strongest privacy setting when setting up profile. This ensures that only desirable person will be able to view their information.

- *The PowerPoint presentation on the topic "[How To Be Safe Online](#)" for students and "[Parental Control](#)" for parents are available in the school website.*
- *If you have any queries, please e-mail to help4safebrowsing@gmail.com*

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Principal