# Guidance for parents regarding safe use of the internet at home

It is important to note that students may access the internet from a number of different devices including: mobile phone, laptops, home computers, tablets, iPads and games consoles as well as some smart TVs.

Within school students are protected by an internal filtering system which prevents them accessing inappropriate sites and they have all signed the home school agreement and acceptable user policy which outline the appropriate use of IT within school and at home. But it is important that parents and guardians take appropriate precautions to protect their children at home. These include: filtering, dialogue and monitoring.

### Filtering

The most effective way to ensure your son / daughter is a safe as possible at home is to ensure that you have parental controls / filter setup on your home wireless network and son / daughters mobile phone. This can be done by contacting your ISP (internet service provider) or in some cases via your wireless router. Guidance for the main three ISPs can be found by clicking the logos below.

It is also possible to setup filtering on your internet at home through your existing router by signing up to OpenDNS the world's leading DNS service which is totally free for home use and can free your home network of internet outages and make your internet faster.

Find out more about OpenDNS by visiting www.opendns.com

### Dialogue

It is also really important that you can talk to your son / daughter about their use of the internet and how to use it safely. We run parent workshops, in conjunction with our Open Evenings and Information Evenings, to help parents and carers to develop their understanding of E-Safety.

**In addition you can find out more about E-Safety by visiting the websites below.**











**Monitoring**

One of the key ways to ensure your son / daughter uses the internet appropriately is to encourage them to go online in family areas of the house rather than alone in their bedrooms so that you can talk about their internet activity and monitor what they are doing in a non-threatening way.

**Advice to parents**

Rednock School recommends the following in regard to the appropriate use of technology at home:

• iPads and other internet enable devices should be used in the family rooms within the house and not in bedrooms

• iPads and other portable devices should be charged downstairs at night

• Young people should use their iPads for no more than 1 hour per day for recreational purposes

• Parents and careers should talk with their children about their online activity

**Feeling Overwhelmed?**

Are you feeling baffled by the digital world? Help is at hand with a useful guide from Vodafone which is packed with over 100 pages of useful information. Click the logo below to read more.