

Cyberbullying

What every Parent should know

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Cyberbullying is on the increase, and a source of worry for both parents and children

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What Every Parent Should Know:-

Cyberbullying is different to the normal school playground bullying, in that it happens in the privacy of the Child's home. I say 'the privacy of home' for the simple reason that a lot of parents still believe a child or young person is safe from bullying in their home.

[DirectGov](#) on the Young People page describe Cyberbullying is when one person or a group of people try to threaten, tease or embarrass someone else by using a mobile phone or the internet. Cyberbullying is just as harmful as bullying in the real world. If you see it happening, report it. Don't ignore it.

The most common occurrences of bullying take place in the form of telephone calls or text messages to your child's mobile, through social sites, instant messaging, such as MSN, Video hosting sites such as Utube, web cams and gaming sites. This type of bullying is often compounded by other people deliberately, or unintentionally, resending emails, or commenting on videos.

Unfortunately this is not the only way your child could be under attack, or even you. People pose as being of a similar age as your child in order to 'Groom them', with instances of children being tricked into providing pictures of themselves in compromising situations, and then being blackmailed. They can receive a virus, which can wipe out programs, or read your child's address book, or simply crash your child's computer and render it worthless.

Worse still they can receive a 'Trojan horse' which is effectively a back door to your child's computer, and if it is in any way connected to your computer, it can be a backdoor to your computer, your bank, and all your personal details, everything needed to clone your identity.

All of these can be avoided once you know how. [DirectGov](#) provides a comprehensive ways to protect your child and how to understand the problems your child can encounter. All the places your child is liable to visit is invariably safe, provided they are aware of potential problems. Most sites provide 'a report button' to report cases of bullying and or abuse. You can apply filters to stop your child receiving certain emails, and filters to block certain sites, such as 'adult' sites.

It is important to educate your child of the possible dangers, with the right sort of education and guidance the internet is perfectly safe for your child to use and enjoy.

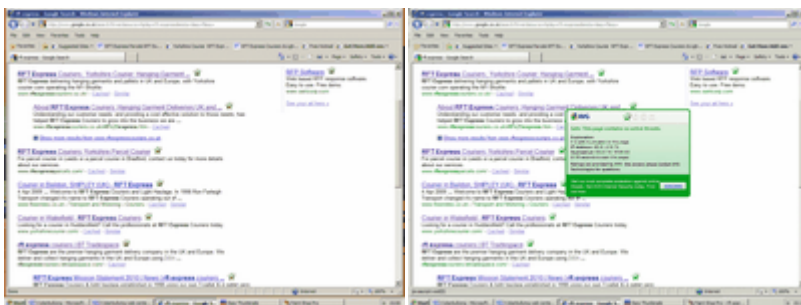
Crack Sites.

As a parent you have probably never heard of the term 'Crack sites' but if you have a teenage son or daughter, you can guarantee they have heard of them. A crack site is a site where you can download pirated versions of popular software, or if you have the software they will provide you with the 'Key' needed to operate the system. You can also find totally illegal programs, i.e. software to hack into someone else's computer or mobile phone and use all their credit. Apart from all this being illegal, along with the download comes the Trojan horse, and/or, a nasty Virus. Tell your child not to go on these sites, and they will do just to see why they can't.

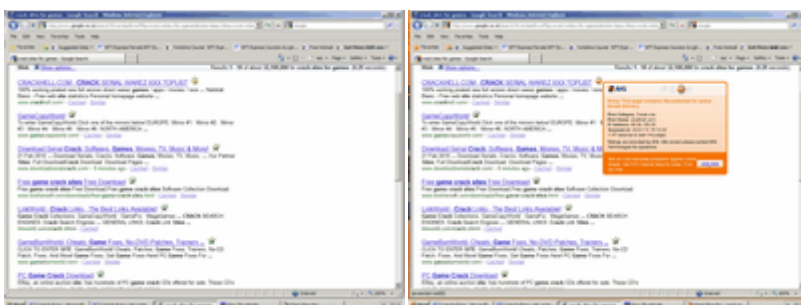
Better still is education even, if it is by stealth. On our free download pages, Anti Virus we feature a program called AVG antivirus. This program will block emails and downloads if there is a virus, and it can be used to check programmes from an external source, DVD, or portable hard drive.

Why I use this one and like it is because, it is perfectly free, and when you are searching Google or other search engines, a pop up will appear as you hover over a link, and tell you if the site is safe and free from viruses, or whether it is unsafe to use. This is usually enough to prevent most people clicking on the site. This freebie can be found on the [Anti Virus page](#).

Here is an example of a safe site



Here is an example of an unsafe site



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