

Online security and viruses

What you need to know

Viruses are malicious computer programs that try to infect devices with internet access. They spread in a variety of ways:

- As attachments to emails
- By pretending to be something they're not, like photos – a 'trojan'
- As downloads on malicious websites
- Hidden in documents as 'macro viruses'
- As a 'worm', transferred from device to device via the internet

What to look out for

Look out for suspicious communications you or your children might receive:

- Emails asking for personal or sensitive information
- Websites asking for personal information and bank details
- Text messages that ask for a reply



What you can do

- Google a website before you buy things like concert tickets and check it has the padlock sign before entering card details
- Install anti-virus and anti-spyware software and a firewall
- Find out more about security at www.getsafeonline.org.uk
- Set strong passwords