

Savvy shopping

Shopping online is convenient and often better value; gas and electricity companies have better online tariffs and buying in bulk from supermarkets can save you time and money. But it also means that your children may be able to buy things they couldn't in the offline world – alcohol, cigarettes - and may not feel the consequences of buying expensive items, all at the click of a button.

Online auction sites are a great way to find a bargain but also attract sales of fake or non-existent goods, among the second hand bargains.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Agree some rules around when and where your child shops online and the use of their (or your) credit cards or bank cards
- If you're using an auction site, find out what the auction company will (or won't) do if something goes wrong
- Look out for encrypted web sites (https) and padlocks in the corner of the screen to make sure card details are used securely – also consider using services like PayPal
- Talk to your child about spotting fake goods for sale - if it looks too good to be true then it usually is!