



Theft

An increase in the number of phones, mp3 players and tablets owned and carried by children and young people has been matched by a rising number of young people reporting that they have been a victim of crime. Alongside material theft, online theft is also on the rise; criminals accessing your personal information and fraudulently applying for loans, credit cards and so on in your name.

ACTION

- Keep a note of your family's mobiles' unique IMEI number – dial *#06# to find this on a phone. If your phone is stolen then this number can be used to stop the thief from using it.
- Contact your provider to get the number locked if a phone has been stolen – otherwise you could end up paying the bill
- Encourage your children have a lock or pin on their phone
- Set up virus protection on your computer (see the viruses and hacking fact sheet)
- Help your children to think about the information they share and who they share it with
- Pay online only through encrypted web sites that use https: to protect your data. Look for a padlock symbol in the bottom right hand side of your internet browser.
- Vary important passwords so that if one password is stolen, it doesn't allow access to all your other accounts
- If the 'theft' is not financial but about someone impersonating your child online e.g. through a Facebook profile or a Hotmail email account, you can report it to the provider who can help you to re-set the account