

e-safety in the Home Access programme

HOME ACCESS

NEXT GENERATION LEARNING

Home Access is the government programme which will help to ensure that more children in state-maintained education in England have access to technology at home to support learning. Under the programme low-income families who met set eligibility criteria can apply for a Home Access Grant to purchase a compliant Home Access computer and internet package from a range of approved suppliers.

Online protection for families

The safety and security of learners, parents and carers is paramount to Home Access and the programme aims to combine technical and educational solutions to ensure that users have safer experiences.

To this end all Home Access packages come with the following enhanced safety features:

- Pre-set parental controls so unsuitable content is blocked from the first time the user turns their computer on
- 3 years anti-virus protection
- Firewall enabled as standard.

Because filtering is provided on the device it will be in place no matter what connectivity is used. Filtering is set in accordance with PAS 74, a British Standard for Internet Access Control Software which aims to allow UK adult internet users to easily control children's access to inappropriate internet-based content and services including:

- Adult (sexually explicit content)
- Violence (including weapons and bombs)

- Racist and Hate material
- Illegal drug taking and promotion of illegal drug use
- Criminal skills / activity
- Gambling.

Filtering will not be preset to block social web 2.0 applications such as social networking sites or user generated content.

Home Access packages also come with two user accounts already set up; one for parents and one for children. Parents and carers are able to amend the settings as they see fit, for example to reflect their child's age, but only they will have the necessary permissions to do this. Care should always be taken when altering settings and parents will be provided with advice on the implications of doing this.

It's good to talk

As well as utilising technical solutions it is key that parents and carers are equipped with appropriate advice and guidance to help them keep their children safer online. To support parents and carers in doing this, Home Access packages also include:

- The award-winning e-safety guide, Know IT All for Parents, pre-loaded onto every computer
- A Home Access How to guide on all desktops which includes information for families on the safety features of Home Access packages
- A dedicated Home Access website set as the homepage which directs families to further information about e-safety, including the CEOP 'Reboot Abuse' button.

These Home Access packages will be available for purchase by all and research conducted on the value of the packages with families showed that over 70% of families surveyed found the safety settings and support provided important.

To help support learners themselves, the Beatbullying programme is launching 'Team Home Access', an online cybermentors peer support scheme. Learners will be directed to this from the Home Access website and some beneficiary learners have already been trained.

Embedding Home Access into the wider safeguarding agenda


Becta is working to ensure that the Home Access programme is embedded into its existing safeguarding activity. Home Access doesn't represent any additional safety requirements; instead partners should be working to equip all families with relevant information about how to stay safer online.



"The Know IT All video clips gives you peace of mind as a parent who is new to computing."

Shaun, Parent, Suffolk

Find out more visit:

 www.becta.org.uk/homeaccess

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