

#### Windows Basics: Starting up the Computer

Before you can start to use your computer or learn anything about using it you need to be able to switch it on.

Turn on the computer. There is a push button or a toggle switch, probably on the front. Power buttons usually have the following symbol indicating power.



You may have to hold the button down for 1-2 seconds for it to work.

The power button may be on the front of your computer or on a laptop it may be at the top of the keyboard. You will have to look for it.

You will now have to **wait** for the computer to 'power up' or 'boot'.

#### What happens next?

- As the computer starts up, it gives itself a brief medical. The hard drive spins up to working speed. The power supply fan comes on. The cooling fan for the processor starts working. The computer checks its CD/DVD drive and floppy drive if it has one.
- Some text may appear on the screen as the computer checks itself. The computer checks its own memory and makes sure all its start up programs are working OK.
- You will then see the computer display the Windows Startup picture with some words about the Windows version your computer is using.
- *Finally you should see the desktop with its icons and taskbar, or you may see a 'log in' screen.*

