



Esafty

A Guide for Parents – keeping your child safe at home



Advice for Parents and Carers on the Use of Facebook and Other Social Media Sites

Facebook’s terms and conditions state that all users must be 13 years or older. As such, we strongly recommend that parents do not allow their children who are under 13 years of age to have their own personal account online.

The age restriction is there to help protect your child from any potential risk that they may encounter while using the site. Staff at school regularly speak to children under 13 years of age who openly admit to having a Facebook profile/account, and it is often a family member that has helped them set up their account!

Please be aware that if your son/daughter creates a Facebook profile using false details (date of birth etc), not only could they be banned from Facebook but they could also be committing a criminal offence by falsifying their details.

The safety and wellbeing of children and young people is a priority, so please note some of the following risks that young people may face while using Facebook or similar sites. These risks are not just for the under 13’s but may be considered greater the younger the child is.

Facebook currently uses ‘Age Targeted’ advertising and your child could be exposed to adverts of a sexual or other inappropriate nature

Children may accept friend requests from people they don’t know in real life which could increase the risk of inappropriate contact or behaviour.

Language, games, applications, groups and content posted or shared on Facebook is not moderated and therefore can be offensive, unsuitable for children and even illegal.

Photographs shared by users are not moderated and therefore children could be exposed to inappropriate images or even post their own.

Underage users might be less likely to keep their identities private and lying about their age can expose them to further risks regarding privacy settings and inappropriate behaviour.

It is strongly recommended that parents and carers are aware of filtering tools or parental controls that can greatly reduce the risk to young people while using the internet. However it is equally important to say that they are not always effective and young people may still be able to access unsuitable content.

Good communication and regular monitoring of their internet use will help reduce the risks. Talk to your child about their experiences, their likes and dislikes, who they’re speaking too, what sites they use and games they play etc .

In general monitor their use, if they don’t like you doing that, there’s probably a reason why, be suspicious!

You may want to check the following points:

- Check their profile is set to private and that only approved friends can see information that is posted
- Closely monitor your child’s use, and talk to them about safe and appropriate online behaviour such as not sharing personal information, clicking onto unknown links, installing applications and not posting offensive messages or photos.
- Please also be aware that young people may talk about personal issues or events that may put themselves, others or their belongings at risk. You wouldn’t put an advert in the window of the local newsagent saying you’re going abroad for a week’s holiday at the end of the month! So why let your child broadcast the fact to 1500 people via Facebook or any other site! Would it put your family home and belongings at greater risk?
- Consider installing the CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) application on <http://www.facebook.com/clickceop> on their profile.
- Set up your own profile so you can understand how the site works and tell them to have you as a friend, so you know what they are posting online.
- Have a look at the advice for parents/carers from Facebook www.facebook.com/help/?safety=parents

Make sure your child understands the following rules:

- Always keep your profile private and never accept friends you don’t know in real life.
- Never share your password, it’s there to protect your details, keep it to yourself.
- Never post anything online that could reveal your identity, home address, phone numbers, email address, school or clubs you attend, pictures of school or club uniform, vehicles, local landmarks, places frequented etc.
- Always click on links that you can trust and always ask an adult first if you are not sure.
- Never agree to meet anyone that you only know online without telling a trusted adult.
- Always tell an adult you trust if you feel threatened, see something that makes you feel worried or someone upsets you online.
- Do you really need 800 friends? Do you trust all your online friends? If not reduce your online friends to a manageable group of trusted people.

We have recently been alerted to a site called ASK FM. At this time this site can be accessed through Facebook. ASK FM appears to be unregulated and people can anonymously post comments. This could of course lead to inappropriate, false or bullying type comments being posted by unknown people. This can be very hurtful & upsetting for those targeted, again please monitor and choose carefully what sites you allow your child to visit.

Report This Page

All reports are strictly confidential. What best describes this?

Spam or scam

Contains hate speech or attacks an individual

Violence or harmful behavior

Nudity, pornography, or sexually explicit content

Duplicate, fake, or miscategorized Page

Is this your intellectual property?