



KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE - FACEBOOK



WATCOMBE PRIMARY SCHOOL

SPRING 2016

E-Safety

Key information for parents/carers regarding Facebook

It has been brought to our attention that many of our children, particularly in KS2, have Facebook profiles even though the permitted minimum age to use the site is 13, according to the sites terms and conditions. We are committed to promoting the safe and responsible use of the Internet and as such we feel it is our responsibility to raise this particular issue as a concern and help to empower you as parents to keep your child safe.



What are the dangers of Facebook?

Websites such as Facebook offer amazing communication and social connections, however they are created with their audience in mind and this is specifically over 13 years old. Risks for children under 13 using the site may include:

- 👉 Facebook use 'age targeted' advertising and therefore your child could be exposed to adverts of a sexual or other inappropriate nature, depending on the age they stated they were when they registered
- 👉 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, groups and content posted or shared on Facebook is not moderated, and therefore can be offensive, illegal or unsuitable for children
- 👉 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 options
- 👉 Facebook could be exploited by bullies and for other inappropriate contact
- 👉 Facebook cannot and does not verify its members therefore it is important to remember that if your child can lie about who they are online, so can anyone else!

We feel it important to point out to parents the risks of underage use of such sites, so you can make an informed decision as to whether to allow your child to have a profile or not.

I am happy for my child to use Facebook but how do I keep them safe?

Should you decide to allow your child to have a Facebook profile we strongly advise that you:



✔ Check their profile is set to private and that only friends can see information that is posted. Facebook help to do this can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/help/> We have also uploaded a support document here: [http://www.watcombe-primary.torbay.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Facebook Checklist.pdf](http://www.watcombe-primary.torbay.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Facebook%20Checklist.pdf)

✔ Monitor your child's use and talk to them about safe and appropriate online behaviour such as not sharing personal information and not posting offensive messages or photos.








- ✔ Visit and like the 'Click CEOP' (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) Facebook page www.facebook.com/clickceop. This page gives you useful e-safety information and directs you to the online reporting site should you be concerned about something happening online. Seeing that you have visited or liked this site has been known to deter offenders.
- ✔ If you don't already have one, set up your own profile so you understand how the site works and ask them to have you as a friend on their profile so you know what they are posting online.

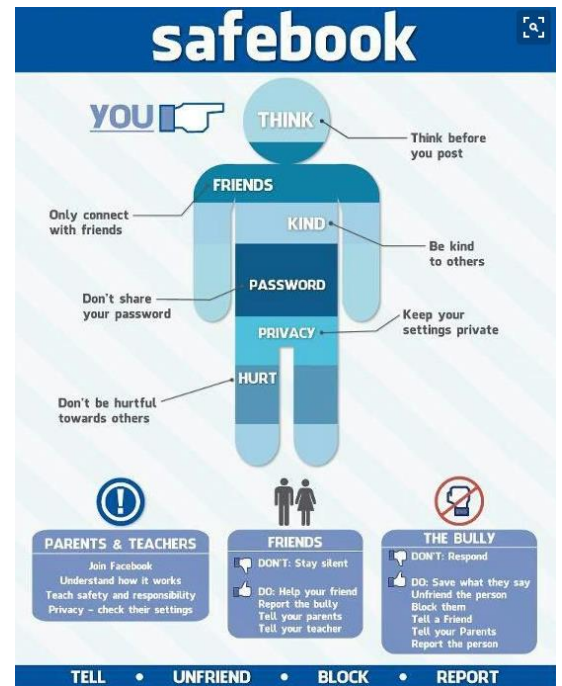
Is there any advice that the school can offer?

As a school, we teach about e-safety regularly. We recommend that you keep an open and regular dialogue with your child to ensure that they feel able to tell you if a problem arises so that you can deal with it together.



We would suggest that it is important for you to reiterate the key e-safety rules which we cover in school:

-  Always keep your profile private
-  Never accept friends you don't know in real life
-  Never post anything which could reveal your identity
-  Never post anything you wouldn't want your parents to see
-  Never post anything which you know will upset someone
-  Never agree to meet somebody you only know online without telling a trusted adult
-  Always tell someone if you feel threatened or someone upsets you

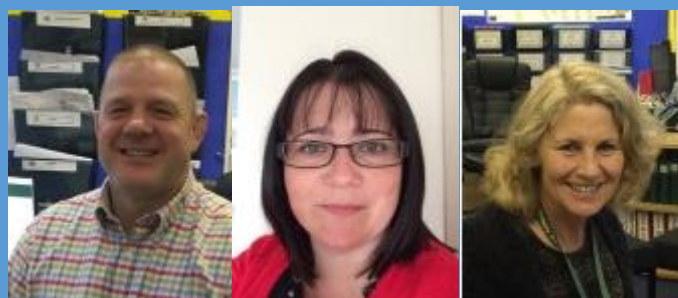


We recommend that all parents visit the CEOP Think U Know website for more information on keeping your child safe online www.thinkuknow.co.uk

What will the school do if an e-safety concern is raised?

We will take action (which may involve the police) if a problem comes to our attention that involves the safety or wellbeing of any of our children. Each incident is fully documented and outcomes recorded. School staff will liaise with and support parents to deal with incidents which happen out of school time. All school staff receive specialist e-safety training regularly.

E-safety incidents should be reported to one of the Designated Safeguarding Staff within school.



Adam Morris (Headteacher), Sarah Leaman (Deputy Headteacher) Julie Rowntree (Family Pastoral Mentor)