



Safety Tips on Social Networking Sites

Most sites are for people aged 13 and up – if you are on Facebook or another social networking site and you are younger than 13, then please think about how many other people are on the site who are not who they say they are!

Check your privacy setting and make sure you have set your page to 'friends only,' check whether any personal details are private or public

Clean your friends list and take off people you don't know

Never agree to meet up with someone you have met online. If you feel you absolutely must do so – take a parent with you and meet only in a public place

Do not give out personal information – check your page - have you shown your full name, address and phone number? Remove it or make your page private. Don't give anyone you are chatting with your phone number, email address, photos or school name

Accepting emails, messages or IM messages from people you don't know can lead to problems. They may contain viruses or nasty messages so please take care

Chatrooms can be places where people are bullied or people may pressure you to do something you do not want to do. If you feel uncomfortable, leave the chatroom. Never agree to be filmed or to post a photo at someone's suggestion.

Think about the photos you decide to put up on your page yourself. Choose carefully and make sure they are not too personal. If the photo shows someone else please ask that person first if they are happy to be online

Don't put photos up that you would not like parents or teachers to see, they stay online forever and one day they could be seen by someone you work for

Don't move onto IM to communicate with someone you met online.