

Snapchat & Instagram

Safety Tips for Parents / Carers / Teachers







Keep things hidden

Snapchat and Instagram both have the option to keep things hidden. This means you only have to let people you choose see your images. This adds more safety to your account and stops strangers getting in touch with you. It is important to ensure the child's profile is as secure as possible, as Instagram uses hashtags and can make them viewable to anybody who searches for that specific word.

Report things that aren't right

As with Twitter and Facebook, you can report people through Instagram and Snapchat. If something your child has been sent isn't right or you don't like the way that they are being spoken to and interacted with, you can report people to Snapchat and Instagram. You can report people through Instagram by following this link. And do the same on Snapchat too.

Know what they are sharing online

Snapchat and Instagram are targeted at a younger audience than Facebook and Twitter, so it is even more important to know how these two apps work. Make sure there is some way to check that the content they are putting out there is safe and isn't putting your child at risk. Get to know the apps so that you can better understand the rights and wrongs and stay on top of the technology.

For more information on staying safe on Instagram, <u>follow this link</u>. And to find out more about Snapchat, <u>click this</u>.



Twitter

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Protect passwords

Explain to your child/pupil that passwords should never be shared, not even with their friends. If the home computer is shared, remind them to always log out when they finish their Twitter session to develop good online safety habits. It's important to log out of any websites they logged into on a shared computer, otherwise, other people may be able to access their information.

Think before tweeting

You may have seen children/pupil say or write things that were not meant to be hurtful but that others found offensive or upsetting. Help your child/pupil evaluate whether or not something is okay to post by reminding them that if they wouldn't say it to the person's face or out loud, they shouldn't say it online either.

The nature of the Internet makes it difficult to completely erase content. Consider having a conversation about how what gets posted online can hurt feelings, affect offline relationships and even jeopardize future opportunities.

Remember Twitter is a public space

Most of the communication taking place on Twitter is viewable to everyone. Since the information posted is public, it can be retweeted on the site by anyone who sees it.

While Tweets can be protected so only approved followers can see them, most users share their Tweets with everyone. If your child/pupil wants their Tweets to only be available to approved followers, they can protect their Tweets.

Block and ignore

If your child/pupil receives unwanted tweets from another user, Twitter recommends that he or she block that user and end communication. Ignoring the content shows unwillingness to engage in such interaction, and in most cases, the aggressor loses interest. Blocking the user will empower your child/pupil by preventing the blocked user from following them.

Report a violation

Get to know the Twitter Rules. If you believe an account is violating our rules, you or your child can file a report.



Facebook

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Check their privacy settings

Facebook provides the opportunity for users to choose how they want people they're not friends with to see them. For young people, it is highly recommended that they keep their profile as private as possible to avoid unwanted friend requests and to remain as secure and hidden as possible.

Set the right example

By keeping your Facebook profile clean and respectable, you are setting the right example to young people who are provided with a theme to stick to. If your profile contains things you wouldn't want your child or pupil to put, they are more likely to follow your lead.

Get yourself comfortable with the report button

Technology moves quickly and Facebook continues to adapt to stay at the height of social media. This means that they have made it easier than ever to report things to the site administrators. By making yourself aware of how to report things, it will allow you to talk them through the process and be more knowledgeable of how the website works.

Check your schools policy on Facebook

Many schools can be skeptical about social media and how their staff choose to use it. Before taking any photos or accepting anyone as a friend, you need to make yourself comfortable with how your school expects you to use social media.

Spot the warning signs

The rise of social media has led to the surge of trolling and online bullying. For all young people this is a danger and something to make sure you are aware of. If your child or pupil seems adrift and upset, it is worth raising the question about their online profiles.

For more information on keeping safe, visit www.facebook.com/safety