



Some really important things to remember about Facebook:

1. It is a business. Though strangely we are the product and advertisers are the customers.
2. It is outside of many UK laws and restrictions.
3. The minimum age is 13, due in part to content.
4. Anything posted to Facebook can be used by Facebook; this includes comments, 'likes' and photos. (You still retain copyright but they have your permission to use it.)



Bearing those points in mind, children and adults should be selective about what information they part with, and consider the implications of posting the wrong thing.

If you join Facebook and don't change your privacy settings everything other than your photos and wall posts are visible to anyone, regardless of whether or not they are Facebook members.

You should also consider dividing your friends list into separate groups, such as 'family' and 'work' etc. The latest edition of Facebook starts this process for you but you may need to check who has been put into what lists. This will allow you to have greater control over what access each group has to your Facebook content. For instance a

work colleague might not appreciate seeing what you get up to in your spare time or you might not want to share your family photos with some friends in your list.

Facebook have introduced in-line privacy and this looks to have made staying safe a little easier.



When you write a post you can set who can see that individual post, whether that is public or just a certain friends group you have set up.

Facebook are always looking to freshen things up by regularly adding new features. When they do this they tend to set these features as pre-selected by the user, this means you have to go into your settings and turn them off. Two examples of this are 'Location' and 'Tag suggestions'.

'Location' – you now select this in-line when you write your post to let your friends know where you are e.g. local cinema or café.

Provided you are very careful with your friends list and ensure you actually do know them all, this isn't too risky.

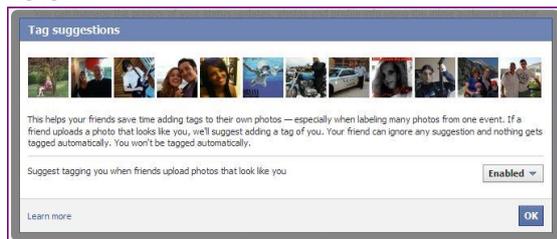
However, combine that with another setting which will automatically tell anyone else already signed in to that 'location' that you have also 'checked in', and this becomes a lot more risky.

'Tag suggestions'

There are 2 new features for tagging. The first is again in-line so as you write your post you can select who is with you. People can also tag you, you have the ability to control this by



making sure your settings are set to review tags before posting. The second feature is an update of the existing photo tagging ability within Facebook. Now instead of having to manually tag every photo you upload it, it checks the photos and suggests who is in them from your friend's lists.



Bullying using technology is a common problem that young people highlight; see the cyber mentors link at the bottom of the page for more information. Schools have a duty to deal with bullying so contact them if you have a problem, they can call on the SSCT to assist them. As a team we promote the use of restorative practices to deal with bullying; this practice gives the individual the opportunity to meet with the bully in a safe environment and explain how their behaviour is affecting them and explores ways in which the matter can be resolved and all parties can move forward.

Legislation

Please help your children to realise that what they say and do in 'cyberspace' can have consequences in the 'real world'. For example someone who is 'Cyberbullying' another person can be prosecuted under the Malicious Communications Act 1988.

If you harass another person, whether in 'cyberspace' or not, you could be prosecuted under the Harassment Act 1997.

The Sexual offences Act 2003 states it is against the law to be in possession of and/or distribute an indecent image of a child (under 18). Therefore the sending of nude or semi nude images between young people is illegal (even if they are in a relationship).

Please visit the Thinkuknow website (details below) for more advice and information on the legislation that governs the use of digital technology.

Lastly the Child Exploitation Online Protection centre (CEOP) have an online 'report abuse button' that allows anybody experiencing any form of inappropriate contact online to report it. These reports must be clear and concise. Facebook doesn't have the CEOP report button on its site; however you can add it to your profile by typing in the word CEOP in your facebook search or by downloading it at <http://apps.facebook.com/clickceop>.

We highly recommend you visit the following links for more advice:

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

(Internet safety advice and resources for all)

www.wikihow.com/Manage-Facebook-Privacy-Options

(This covers the latest privacy changes on Facebook.)

www.cybermentors.org.uk

(A site where young people experiencing bullying can get help and support)