Social Networking

Age restrictions

- Facebook – 13 years old.

- Twitter – 13 years old.

- **Instagram** – 13 years old.

- YouTube – 13 years old.

- Snapchat – 13 years old

- TikTok – 13 years old

- WhatsApp – 16 years old.

- Kik – 17 years old.

TikTok

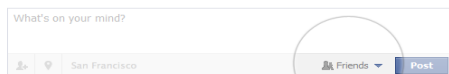- TikTok is a free social media app that lets you watch, create and share videos.

- Common sense recommends the app for age 16+ mainly due to the privacy issues and mature content. TikTok requires that users be at least 13 years old to use the app and that anyone under the age of 18 must have approval of a parent or guardian.

- When you sign up for TikTok, your account is public by default, meaning anyone can see your videos, send you direct messages and use your location information. Parents need to change the privacy settings to 'friends' instead of 'everyone' as then they can only add and accepts other people who they know.

Make sure your Facebook is set to 'Friends' and not 'Public'.

- Strangers could be accessing photos of your children on your Facebook account if your account is left on 'Public'.
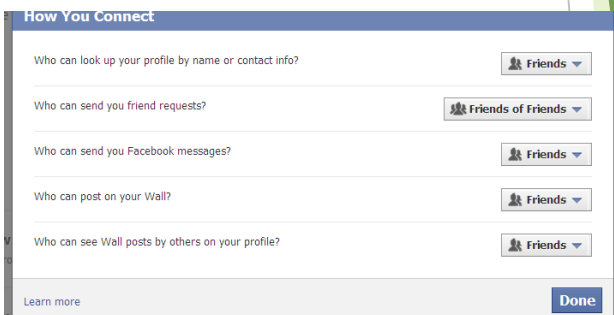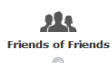
Control Privacy When You Post
You can manage the privacy of your status updates, photos and profile info using the inline audience selector — when you share or afterwards. Remember: the people you share with can always share your information with others, including apps. Try editing your profile to see how it works or learn more.

What's on your mind?

San Francisco   👥 Friends ▾   Post

Control Your Default Privacy
This setting will apply to status updates and photos you post to your profile from a Facebook app that doesn't have the inline audience selector, like the Facebook App for iPhone.

👥 **Friends of Friends** ○   👥 **Friends** ◉   ⚙ **Custom** ○

👥 **How You Connect**
Control how you connect with people you know.   Edit Settings

🏷 **How Tags Work**
Control what happens when friends tag you or your content.   Edit Settings

How You Connect

Who can look up your profile by name or contact info?	👤 Friends ▾
Who can send you friend requests?	👥 Friends of Friends ▾
Who can send you Facebook messages?	👤 Friends ▾
Who can post on your Wall?	👤 Friends ▾
Who can see Wall posts by others on your profile?	👤 Friends ▾

Learn more   Done

Instagram

Instagram is all about how many likes and followers you've got. Children set their accounts to 'public' in order to gain more followers and likes but it leaves all their posts, photos and videos open to predators.

Instagram is the biggest social media network for grooming online.

Google yourself!

- 'Google' yourself (and your family members!) to see if you are leafing footprints for strangers to access your details.

Type in the first and last name, email addresses, screen names, addresses and phone numbers.

TikTok

- Because they're videos, children could come across swearing, suggestive dancing, swearing and nudity.
- When you sign up for TikTok, your account is public by default, meaning anyone can see your videos, send you direct messages and use your location information. Parents need to change the privacy settings to 'friends' instead of 'everyone' as then they can only add and accepts other people who they know.

Cyber bullying

- **<u>Do no respond:</u>** Tell your child to not respond to e-mails, messages and comments.

- **<u>Save the evidence:</u>** Take screenshots of comments, text messages and emails. Also, take note of the date and time when the harassment occurs.

- **<u>Contact your ISP</u>** (internet service provider) or mobile phone provider. Ask the ISP to remove any web page or account if there's evidence of abuse.

- **<u>'Block' bullies or delete</u>** – Delete their accounts of block their account or phone number.

- **<u>Make a report</u>** – www.cybertipline.com and if you feel something illegal has occurred then inform law enforcement.

What the law says

Although bullying is not a specific criminal offence in UK law, criminal and civil laws can be applied.

- Protection from Harassment Act 1997

- Malicious Communications Act 1988

- Section 43 of the Telecommunications Act 1984

- Communications Act 2003

The age of criminal responsibility in the UK starts at 10 years old.

Sexting

The term sexting refers to the taking or sharing of inappropriate or explicit pictures or videos. This includes explicit text messages also. To access a video to explain the seriousness of sexting, got to NSPCC *Share Aware* campaign. Teach children to think would they want their grandparents to see it, if not then don't post it.

Although unlikely to be prosecuted, young people may be visited by the police and equipment removed. Crimes involving indecent images of a person under 18 years fall under Section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1978 and Section 160 Criminal Justice Act 1988. It is a crime to:

➢ Take an indecent photograph or allow an indecent photograph to be taken

➢ Make an indecent photograph (this includes downloading or opening an image that has been sent via email)

➢ Distribute or show an image

➢ Possess with the intention of distributing images

➢ Advertise

➢ Possess such images

Grooming/Child Sexual Exploitation

- Anyone can groom and anyone can be groomed.

- Grooming is not about gender or sexuality, but is about one person trying to get control over someone else.

Online grooming techniques:

- Compliments, shared interest, bribery and gifts, help with problems, threats, sexualised games, desensitisation using explicit images.

PREVENTION- What can we do ?

Know the signs- and be alert

Acting on signs early can prevent abuse from happening or escalating.

Ensure lines of communication are open

Children and young people need to know they can talk to us about anything. Abusers often rely on the victim to be feeling shame or guilt to keep them silent.

Know their friends

Knowing your children's friends enables us to monitor who is likely to be a positive influence on them. Secrecy around friends could indicate unsuitability.

Take an interest in their online life

Talk about the sites they use, talk about the importance of not giving out personal information. Talk about the dangers of posting sexual images online and sexting.

Listen to children and young people

Look out for things they may be showing but not telling. Difficult behaviour could be an indicator that something is wrong.

Talk about grooming as you would stranger danger – a stranger is anyone you don't know, whether in real life or online.
Tell them they shouldn't talk privately or give personal information to anyone they don't know.
Discuss with them what 'personal information' is.
If you believe your child is being groomed:
Report it to the authorities
If you think your child – or another child – could be in immediate danger tell your local police at once.
You can report any concerns about online grooming to the National Crime Agency's CEOP Command.
Report any child abuse images you find hosted by websites to the Internet Watch Foundation.

Managing risks: CEOP

- CEOP (The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) is the UK national lead agency for the protection of children online.

- CEOP was set up in April 2006 and have been working hard to protect children from harm.

- To date (2011) they have arrested over 1,164 sex offenders.

- CEOP have developed a 'CLICK CEOP' button which allow children and adults to report inappropriate interactions and contact directly to CEOP.

- www.ceop/police.uk   www.facebook.com/ceop

Grand Theft Auto

- Sexual images
- Extreme violence
- Drug use
- Inappropriate language and bullying behaviours
- Access to playing online with people they don't know.

- Guns
- Gambling
- Swearing
- Clubs
- Prostitutes

What you need to know

- It isn't a game for children!
- Killing other criminals and innocent people with weapons and vehicles.
- Includes disturbing scenes of torturing people.
- Women are used as sexual objects, with a strip club mini-game.
- Their players also have the opportunity to make their avatars use marijuana and drink alcohol.

GTA – Battle Royale

- Battle Royale is based off a cruel Chinese film where children were forced to kill each other until there is only one left (similar to The Hunger Games!)
- When you tell your child to get off their game and they become stressed or outraged, it's because to them when they get off the game, they have 'died' in their game.
- Reality becomes lost and confused.

Gaming tips

Most online games have access to communicating with strangers.

- Mindcraft – 13 years
- Roblox – If your child has set their age to under 13, Roblox will place them on a restricted chat system automatically. This means that they will only be able to directly message and be messaged by other users who are their 'Friend' list.
- GTA (Grand Theft Auto) and COD (Call of Duty)– 18 years. GTA is rated 'M' which means 'for mature players'.
  - Know the **safety features** on the game their using, e.g. a headset may have voice-masking features.
  - Allow your children to keep gaming consoles in an **easy-to-supervise location**.
  - Be aware of **other places** where your child may be accessing games.
  - Tell your child to never give out **personal information**.
  - Tell your child the importance of not meeting anyone outside of a game.
  - Teach your child not to respond to anyone who is being **rude of bullying** while playing a game.
  - Set rules for **how long** your child can play a game and which games are appropriate.
  - Your child needs to check with you before using a **credit or debit card** online.

Support

common sense

www.commonsensemedia.org

► You can search any game and it will tell you the ratings per category and gives you a fair opinion whether it is suitable for children.

Thinkuknow

► CEOP have created their own education program called 'Thinkuknow' and it has been viewed over 8 million times.

► www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

► This program creates engaging films and materials which can be used to educate and empower children to protect themselves in the online world.

www.thinkuknow.co.uk
www.youtube.co.uk/ceop

Parental Controls

► For more information on parental controls, visit the CEOP Parents' page www.Thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

► Contact your service provider (BT, TalkTalk, Sky etc)

All providers have different controls but most provide them free if you contact them directly!

Google's Parental Control

► Please set parental controls on your search engines, YouTube account and the mobile phone your child uses.

► One of the most popular search engines in the world is Google. For step by step guides go to www.google.com/familysafety/tools

www.mspy.com – (My Spy)
• Ultimate monitoring software for parental control.
• Remotely track and control any activity of children on all smart phones and computers.

www.kidgy.com –
• Access your child's current GPS location
• monitor and control their internet activity.
• View text messages and call logs.
• Restrict access to websites and apps.

Kid Zone app –
• Blocks installing apps and unwanted text messages.

TeenSafe app –
• View GPS and text messages (even deleted!)

Lock2Learn app
• Restricts access to different apps

Helpful websites

internet matters.org

learn about it / talk about it / deal with it

THINK U KNOW .co.uk

NHS choices
www.nhs.uk

CLICK CEOP
Internet Safety

ChildLine
0800 1111

common sense
media

CLICK CEOP
Visit ceop.police.uk

Professionals
Online Safety
Helpline