

Facebook

Advice for Parents

We know that some children have Facebook accounts and want to offer support to Parents on managing the use of these effectively as well as keeping accounts private. Please do not hesitate to seek help/advice from school staff on this matter.

My child does not have a Facebook account...

Facebook's terms and conditions state that you have to be 13 to have an account. This is due to the US COPPA law which prevents US companies from holding data on under 13s without verified permission of their parents – something which Facebook has chosen not to do.

If you are younger than 13 (all pupils at our school), you can only join Facebook by falsifying your date of birth, which is a breach of the Facebook terms and conditions causing Facebook to unknowingly break the law.

Anyone under the age of 13 who joins Facebook is presenting themselves as older than they are.

Some other people join Facebook and pretend to be younger than they are specifically to gain access to children. This could put your child at risk from grooming for exploitation.

My child has a Facebook account which I know

If you have allowed your child to join Facebook in breach of Facebook's terms and conditions this means that you are taking full responsibility for their account and everything they do with it.

We advise that:

- * you look regularly at your child's account including the friends they are making and what they are writing.

- * you follow the advice of CEOP (the Child Exploitation and Online Protection section of the National Crime Agency) to keep an open dialogue with your children about their internet use.

- * you are aware that children often have two Facebook accounts, the one they share with their parents and the one they use.

- * you ensure that your child is aware of the SMART rules and knows how to stay safe online.

<http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/being-smart/>

I don't know if my child has a Facebook account...

This is potentially very risky.

- * you ensure that your child is aware of the SMART rules and your knowledge at a friend's house or on their mobile phone without your knowledge.

This means that you don't know who they are talking to and who they are sharing information with.

If you are unsure of your child's use of social networking sites such as Facebook, or the computer generally, please visit the Think-U-Know website www.thinkuknow.co.uk

There is information for parents and carers as well as information targeted at specific age groups on how to enjoy the internet safely and also how to stay safe online.

Facebook is blocked in our school so children cannot access or join it while they are at school.



Any family's use of their own computer is essentially a private matter.

However, if any use of Facebook or other websites attacks another pupil, pupil's family or any member of staff, or if Facebook or any other website is used to make derogatory comments about our school, we will take this very seriously and take immediate action. This will involve the police and the UK Safer Internet Centre and may lead to civil or criminal action against you or your child. In such cases we will work with Facebook to close down accounts of children under 13.