



Web Safety for Guides

Social networking websites

Did you know that if you are under 13, then you shouldn't be a member of any social networking websites, such as Facebook, Twitter or YouTube? If you are under 13 then they have the right to delete your account if you have created one. If you are between 13 and 17 years old, then you need to check with a parent or carer before you register.

Make sure that your profile is set to private. You don't want anyone reading all the private gossip on your page!

Only accept friends that you actually know, such as girls in your school or your friends in guiding. If you get a friend request from someone you don't know, don't accept them.

Don't publish or give out any of your personal details, including name, address, telephone number or where you go to school or Guides.

Be careful about publishing pictures or videos of you and your friends. Make sure that these pictures/videos can be seen only by you and your friends. You don't want people you don't know commenting on them, or copying them and using them themselves! Always ask permission before uploading them. Think about what you use as your profile picture. Remember that people can see your picture and your name so they will know your name and what you look like! Maybe you could use a picture of your favourite pop star or cartoon character?

Chatting Online

If someone online is upsetting you or making you feel uncomfortable then you need to make sure you save the evidence and tell a trusted adult. You can copy and paste the text or use the Print Screen button on your keyboard and then save it in a document, e.g. Word or Paint.

Remember when chatting online that most services allow you to block and report someone who is upsetting you. If you find yourself in an unpleasant situation, you can leave the website.

Email

Always think about what you have said before you press the send button, especially if you are cross. If you are sending an angry email, type it out then save it. Open up the email again the next day to see if you still feel the same. Chain mail is an email you get that asks you to forward it on to your friends. Some chain mail can be really upsetting and nasty.

If you receive an email that upsets you or makes you worried, speak to your parents, carers, a teacher or your Guide Leader. Don't forward on chain mail as do not worry, you won't die/find your true love/have all your wishes come true by sending it on. If you were upset by the chain mail, think about how your friends may also be upset if they see it.

Also be wary of emails that claim you have won a prize, receive something for free or emails that appear to be from your bank or building society asking you to confirm your details. These emails are designed to make you click on a link to a website in order to give away your personal information. Banks and building societies will never ask for these details via email and clicking the links may download viruses or other harmful files onto your devices. The best thing to do is to delete them, but if you are unsure it is always worth checking with an adult first.

Text messaging

Don't give out your mobile number to anyone other than your family and friends.

If you send pictures to people, be aware that they can forward the picture on to others. Don't take pictures of things that people could find upsetting or hurtful.

Make sure that your Bluetooth is off, or if you want to keep it on, make sure you adjust your privacy settings so that no one can hack in to your phone and steal your pictures! An easy way to do this is to change your password.

Safety tips

When talking to people online you need to remember that online friends are really strangers. People online, no matter how long you have been talking to them or how friendly they are may not be who they say they are. Don't arrange to meet up with anyone you contact on the internet, unless your parents or carers say it is all right and agree to go with you.

Think carefully about what you read, see and hear online. Do not trust the information unless you have checked it on other websites, in books or have asked an adult about it.

Look out for your friends. Tell a responsible adult if you think that a friend of yours is at risk.

If you see something on a website that worries or upsets you, speak to your parents, carers, a teacher or your Guide Leader.