

4. CAUSES FOR CAUTION 'ONLINE'

INAPPROPRIATE WEBSITES

The Internet is open to anyone to post and create content so sometimes your child may see things they wish they hadn't or access sites that are inappropriate for their age. Inappropriate can mean different things to different people, from swear words to pornographic images or videos; what is inappropriate for your child will also change as they grow and develop. It's important to remember that inappropriate content online includes pornographic sites, but can also include sites promoting race hate, unhealthy lifestyles, eating disorders, drug abuse and gambling

ONLINE PORNOGRAPHY

Children may stumble across content online or actively search for sexual content which isn't appropriate for their age. It is natural for children to push boundaries and explore; however, it can be risky. Pornography is a poor and indeed dangerous sex educator; it rarely presents sex in the context of a loving relationship and there is concern that early exposure to hardcore pornography could give young people unhealthy views about sex and what they can expect from a partner. Though it may be difficult, it is important to talk to young people about pornography and how it can portray an unrealistic view of sex and relationships.

FACEBOOK

Young people are protective of their Facebook accounts, and having meaningful discussions with them may not be easy, but we would encourage you to make sure your children understand the following:

1. If you delete your Facebook content it is not gone from the internet if other users have already shared the data.
2. If you delete an account, it is only deleted in a manner similar to a recycle bin and content may still exist on line in backup files.
3. If you use an application or game accessed through Facebook it may ask permission to access your content and information and that shared with other people. Your agreement with the application for the security of your personal data may differ to the agreement you have with Facebook.
4. When you post information in a public setting it means that everyone, including people who do not subscribe to Facebook, have access to it.
5. Mobile applications for Facebook (such as those via your phone) have more complex security settings; your security settings from your computer do not automatically transfer to the account managed from your phone. You have to set these separately.
6. Locations services post on line where you are; very exciting, but be cautious. Do you really want to publish on the internet that your house might be empty? Even with location services turned off, a photo of the family posted live on the London Eye, still tells other people that your home may be empty.
7. You cannot choose your family, but you can choose your friends, so choose carefully who has access to your account. There is no benefit to you in having hundreds of Facebook friends; there are lots of benefits for you having a secure Facebook account.
8. Some of the Facebook games and applications are designed in such a way to require the user to add additional friends in order to progress to later stages of the game. This increases the users' vulnerability by actively encouraging them to 'friend' people they do not know in the real world.
9. Remember, if you don't want someone to see your picture, personal information or private thoughts, then don't post them on the internet!

