



SOCIAL NETWORKING

GuidanceTAKEN from www.thinkuknow.co.uk

What is a social networking site?

Social networking sites are a great way to communicate with your friends. Some will let you chat, others will let you post updates about yourself or share photographs.

Some of the most popular ones are Facebook and Twitter, although remember you need to be 13 and over to use these. Some other popular social networking sites are Moshi Monsters and Club Penguin.

On a social network you can create your own online personal space, and you can include lots of information about yourself, like what music you like and your favourite sport. You can also have a blog (an online diary) where you can write your daily thoughts and invite people to add their comments.

You can add pictures of yourself and your friends, but you should ask them first in case they don't want their picture online. Don't post pictures that you wouldn't want others to see. You can also add music and videos to your page to make it just how you want. You can invite your friends to have access to your site and you can have access to their sites too.

Social networking sites are all online, so any information you add about yourself can be seen by anyone in the world.

If you put too much information about yourself online, people you don't know may be able to find you. Visit www.thinkuknow.co.uk and check out the **Cyber Café**: when Ali creates her online profile she includes all the right information - and you should use her example as a guide to what you should do.

- **NEVER PUT YOUR FULL ADDRESS ON YOUR SITE.** It's best to leave the space blank, or if you do want to add some information, make sure that you make your profile private so only your friends can see it.
- It's a good idea to **USE A NICKNAME** rather than your real name - your friends will know your nickname so will know it's you!
- It's a good idea to **PUT YOUR REAL AGE** on your site - if you lie and say you are older, you may get adults trying to contact you.
- It's also **NOT A GOOD IDEA TO PUT YOUR MOBILE NUMBER** on your site - your real friends will already have it!
- **USE YOUR PRIVACY SETTINGS!** Adjust your account settings (sometimes called "Privacy Settings") so only approved friends can instant message you. This won't ruin your social life - new people can still send you friend requests and message you, they just won't be able to pester you via IM. This means that people you don't want to see your profile can't!

Anything you add to your social networking site can be copied or printed, so if you want to put pictures up on your site think before you do it. Remember that your site may be seen by strangers and once a picture is online, it's online forever. It may be safer to use cartoons instead of pictures - that way you can still make your site fun, but no one will see your picture! If you set up a social networking site, make sure that you make it private so only your friends can see it. That way you can stop strangers from seeing all your information.

Some people who you don't know in the real world may try and ask to be your friend, so they can see your site. It's not a good idea to allow a stranger to have access to your site - they may not be who they say they are and you don't want a stranger knowing lots of things about you! If someone you don't know asks to be your friend, tell a trusted adult straight away.

If you have any questions about Social Networking, talk to your parents or a teacher, and they will be able to help you. God bless, Mrs Campbell