



# E-Safety advice for parents



## Introduction

The internet has changed the way we live. We use it for shopping, games and leisure. Many people go online to keep in touch with friends and make new ones.

Like everything, the internet has a downside. Reports of fraud and identity theft are common. However, the biggest worry for most people is the threat to children.

There are several ways in which children can be affected by things they do or see online:

- They may be exposed to adult material
- They may accidentally give away private information
- They may encounter dangerous strangers
- They may send photographs which can be used by others
- They may be the victim of cyber-bullying

## Social networking websites

Social networking sites are a useful way for keeping in touch with friends through status updates, photographs, groups and messages. However, sites such as Facebook have a minimum age limit of 13 years old- this is the legal age to protect children from potential dangers.

Websites such as 'Club Penguin' differ from other social networking websites as children create a cartoon character of themselves- however once created children are able to interact with others (including strangers) who are also accessing this website.

As a school we strongly advise that children should not be on any social networking websites unattended due to the potential dangers.

## Safety tips for your kids

### Zip It



Keep your personal information private and think about what you say and do online- ZIP IT!

Never reveal your real name or personal information on any social media websites or chat rooms.

Never post photographs on social media websites where strangers can access them- especially not in your school uniform.

Never tell anyone your password except your parents- parents should be regularly logging on to check who you are interacting with.

### Block It



If you ever receive a nasty or inappropriate message by text, email, instant message or through a social networking website (e.g Facebook or Twitter) from either a stranger or someone you know- you can do something about it. Block people who send you nasty messages and don't open unknown links or attachments.

If you are not happy with what is being said- BLOCK IT!

### Flag It



Always flag up with someone you trust if anything upsets you or if someone asks to meet you offline.

Go to your parents or a trusted adult if you are worried or unhappy about anything they see online.

