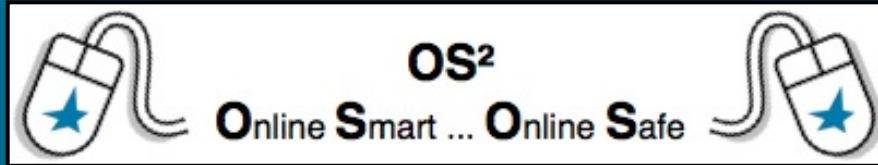


Bloomington Public Schools



Staying safe on social networking websites

What are social networks?

- Websites where people can have fun and get in touch with family and friends.
- People can blog, create their own webpage, play games and trade messages with others.



How can I help my child pick a safe social networking website?

- Tour a website, **before** signing up.
- Make sure the website is safe for kids their age. Check the Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on a website for the age limits.
- **DO NOT** allow kids to pretend to be older than they are. Age limits are set on websites to keep kids safe. It is illegal to misrepresent yourself.
- **DO NOT** let kids join social networking websites for teens and adults, like FaceBook and MySpace.

What websites are safe for kids?

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|------------|-------------------|
| -Tweegee | -WebKinz | -KidsCom | -imbee.com |
| -Club Penguin | -Millsberry | -KidzWorld | -www.whyville.net |

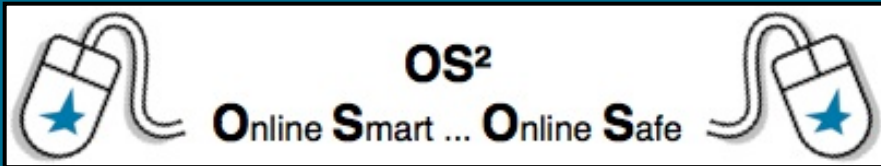
There are age restrictions on some websites

People need to be **at least 13 years old** to have an account on some websites, like FaceBook and MySpace.



Statement of Rights and Responsibilities for FaceBook

1. You will not provide any false personal information on Facebook, or create an account for anyone other than yourself without permission.
2. You will not create more than one personal profile.
3. If we disable your account, you will not create another one without our permission.
4. You will not use your personal profile for your own commercial gain (such as selling your status update to an advertiser).
5. You will not use Facebook if you are under 13.
6. You will not use Facebook if you are a convicted sex offender.
7. You will keep your contact information accurate and up-to-date.
8. You will not share your password, (or in the case of developers, your secret key), let anyone else access your account, or do anything else that might jeopardize the security of your account.



Staying safe on social networking websites



What makes a website safe for kids?

- They are usually monitored by adults and have filters for rude, mean or inappropriate language or pictures.
- The information that kids provide to each other is restricted for their privacy.



What is okay to share in online profiles?

- Kids should ask an adult before entering any information on a profile.
- **DO NOT** fill out private information unless absolutely necessary. Some information is optional to provide.
- Kids should **NOT** add their picture to their profile. They should choose a picture of an object they like instead.
- Enable all privacy settings. Their profile should be **private**. Only give viewing permission to family and friends they know **VERY** well.

Tips for choosing a safe username and password

- They should be 8 numbers and letters long
- Don't use private information in a username or password
- Don't make it too hard to remember
- Choose a sentence or phrase to turn into a username or password

Guidelines for chatting and posting online:

- **DO NOT** vent about others when you are mad at them.
- If you can't say something face-to-face, **DON'T** post it online.
- **DO NOT** post rumors about other people.
- Treat others online the way you want to be treated.
- Don't give out private information.
- Ask friends not to give out your private information.

Check your child's Digital Footprint on Google

A **digital footprint** is anything posted by you or about you by others on the internet. It can include information and pictures.

- Do a search for your child's name on the Internet.
- Once a person posts something online, it is available to other people using a search engine. Information on the Internet can last for years and years.