

PARENTAL ADVICE ON FACEBOOK



Here are some suggested guidelines on how to support your children using Facebook safely:

- The terms and conditions for Facebook state that users need to be 13 years of age. Anyone under that age who has an account is violating the terms and conditions and you can report them at <http://on.fb.me/dTSqRP>.
- Don't be afraid to set boundaries for your younger children and explain that, as with other forms of media, there are age restrictions on using certain websites.
- Create a Facebook account yourself and be 'friends' with your teenage children. This will enable you to monitor what they post on their wall and who they add as 'friends'.
- Facebook explicitly states that no person should abuse, harass or bully other people through posts or comments. If you come across any information that breaches this specific rule you can report it to Facebook. Guidelines on how to do this can be found at <http://on.fb.me/ePpM93>.
- In order to ensure that your teenage children are aware of some of the potential risks on Facebook, make sure that they download the ClickCEOP application, so that they can install the 'Report Abuse' application on their Facebook profile. Users can access this at <http://apps.facebook.com/clickceop/>.
- Ensure that you educate your children about their digital footprints. More colleges, universities and employers are researching candidates for jobs by searching social networking sites. A negative post or unsuitable photograph could come back and haunt your teenage children in later years and prevent them from gaining certain employment.
- Finally, teach your children to send positive posts. Schools and the police are taking seriously negative and libellous comments about educational professionals and it could lead to exclusion or legal action against them.

For further information, visit www.yhgfl.net