

# Social Media Safety



## Key points to consider

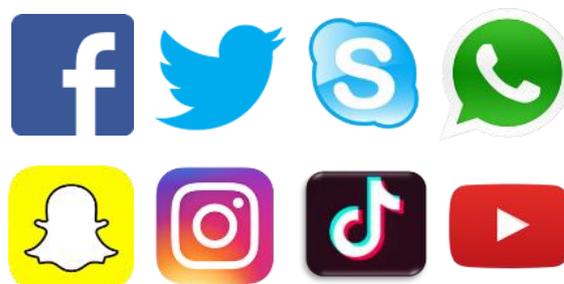
- Always think carefully about any information you choose to share online.
- Take the time to set your privacy setting and check them regularly.
- Be aware who you are adding—avoid adding people you do not know and people due to mutual friends.
- Choose a strong password, secure your accounts.
- ZIP IT, FLAG IT, SAVE IT, BLOCK IT

## Social Media

Social media has become an integral part of the way we communicate and spend time with others.

With a new app or service launching or rebranding every few weeks, keeping up with it all can be a challenge.

Regardless of the apps used, there are some simple guidelines that, when followed, will keep yourself and others safe online.



## What are the risks?

### **Personal information**

Personal information can be found all over social media. The information you use to set up the accounts, and details in your photos, videos and posts may be visible to the outside world.



- Be aware of what you are sharing. Privacy settings for some apps change regularly. Make sure you're sharing the right things with the right people.
- The posts and photos that others tag or share with you may identify such details as your location.
- Be aware of Birthday posts giving out personal information.
- Create a username that does not include personal

information. i.e. don't include date of birth.

- Keep your profiles private and be careful who you let join your network.

### **Offensive Material**

Unfortunately many people will encounter offensive material whilst on social networking sites. Sexual, violent and extremist material is something we need to be aware of and know how to manage.



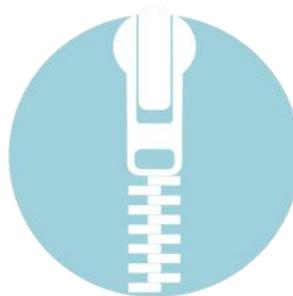
- Beware of people who may contact you in an effort to persuade or harass you into changing your values.
- Do not follow pages that post inappropriate material.

This could affect your own profile and how you are viewed. The majority of employers will look up potential employees online.

- If you come across any offensive material, block and report using in-built tools.

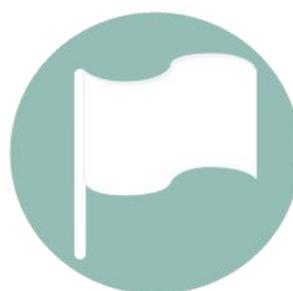
### Other risks to consider

- Hacking: due to personal information being shared online, hackers are able to hijack accounts more easily. Keep passwords strong and do not link them to any personal information. Use two-factor authentication to further secure your accounts.
- Phishing emails: Be aware of emails from social media sites requesting you to click on links. Go straight to the source to check.
- Age-inappropriate content: Social networking sites often have an age limit. However this can be easily bypassed. Be aware of what children are accessing. Use the same apps yourself and talk about them.



### ZIP IT

Keep personal data private and think about what's said and done online.



### FLAG IT

Flag up the issue within your community so everyone is aware of the threat.



### SAVE IT

Screenshot anything relevant (and the profile sending it) so it can be reported properly



### BLOCK IT

Block people who abuse or attempt to abuse online. Report them to the relevant provider.



Sir Robert Peel created the Metropolitan Police in 1829. He set out nine principles for policing. The First Principle was:

**“To prevent crime and disorder, as an alternative to their repression by military force and severity of legal punishment.”**

[Click here for further Crime Reduction Advice](#)



All your policing questions answered

<https://www.askthe.police.uk/content/>



**Secured by Design. (SBD)** The official UK Police flagship initiative combining the principles of 'Designing Out Crime' with physical security. We advise that you look on the SBD website for all of your Security products. <http://www.securedbydesign.com/>



More Security Products can also be found at:  
<http://www.soldsecure.com/>

**CrimeStoppers.**  
Speak up. Stay safe.

**0800 555 111**

100% anonymous, Always

Crime Stoppers is an Independent Charity that gives people the power to speak up to stop crime 100% anonymously <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>



Help after crime—Contact Victim Support for free and confidential support  
<https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/>

**Call us on 101. In an emergency always dial 999**

