Parent's Guide to Social Media Safety

Key points to consider

- **Apply offline child safety online**
- **Blocking is better than removing a child's access to friends**
- **Almost 9 out of 10 images shared by young people go on to be shared online**
- **When things go wrong, ZIP IT, FLAG IT, SAVE IT, BLOCK IT**

The constant change of today's social media can leave parents and carers playing a never-ending game of catch-up.

Thankfully, there are things we can do to keep our family secure online, the same way we would do offline:
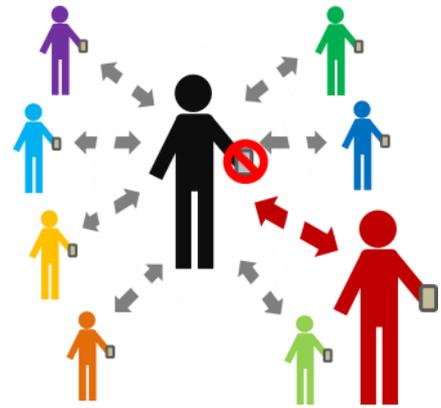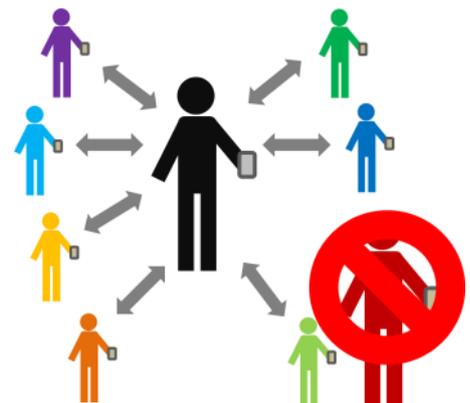

SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY

NST CYBER

- Limit Internet access to public areas of the home where possible

- Check privacy and security settings for all accounts regularly

- Talk about what you're all doing online. Stay involved in your kids' online lives

- Use freely available parental controls / time limits

- Use Social Media Yourselves—Find out how it works and what risks exist

- Apply the old "stranger danger" ideas online

Social Isolation V Inclusion

It's easy to react strongly when young people make mistakes online. Unlike the previous generation, kids today need the social aspect of social media. It's how they communicate. We might think we're protecting them by banning them from social media. In fact, we could be making a bad situation even worse.
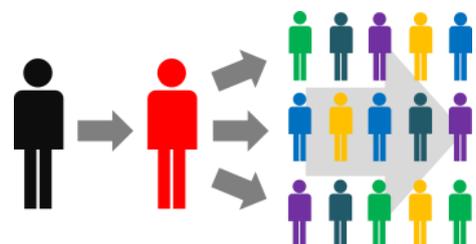
A better solution might be to block the person responsible for causing the problem in the first place. This means your child can still be online and can still be sociable with their friends.

Sharing Images Online

As soon as an image is shared with anyone for any purpose, the creator loses control. In fact, 88% of images shared by young people in Suffolk go on to be shared online.

Knowing the Law

A lot of laws are very easy to break online. Following are some we deal with daily, with regards to Social Media:

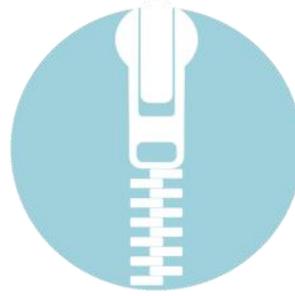**Malicious Communication** is sending offensive or threatening messages to cause distress or fear

Harassment is at least 2 instances of unwanted communication, whether online or offline

Hate Crime is abusing someone based on race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, political views or disability

Indecent Images are any sexual image involving a person under 18 years of age. Making, possession & distribution are all offences
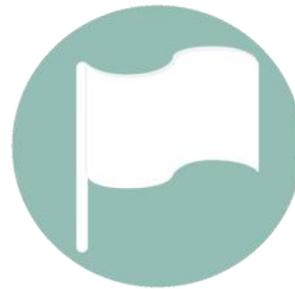
Revenge Porn is the sharing of someone's private sexual images without their consent to cause distress

Sexual Communication with a Child is sending anything of a sexual nature to an under-16.

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. **ttp://www.securedbydesign.com/**

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

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

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