



Twitter and Facebook Safety Tips



Twitter

Safety Tips for Parents/Carers/Teacher

Remember Twitter is a public space

Most of the communication taking place on Twitter is viewable to everyone. Since the information posted is public, it can be retweeted on the site by anyone who sees it.

While Tweets can be protected so only approved followers can see them, most users share their Tweets with everyone. If your child/pupil wants their Tweets to only be available to approved followers, they can [protect their Tweets](#).

Protect passwords

Explain to your child/pupil that passwords should never be shared, not even with their friends. If the home computer is shared, remind them to always log out when they finish their Twitter session to develop good online safety habits. It's important to log out of any websites they logged into on a shared computer, otherwise, other people may be able to access their information.

Think before tweeting

You may have seen children/pupil say or write things that were not meant to be hurtful but that others found offensive or upsetting. Help your child/pupil evaluate whether or not something is okay to post by reminding them that if they wouldn't say it to the person's face or out loud, they shouldn't say it online either.

The nature of the Internet makes it difficult to completely erase content. Consider having a conversation about how what gets posted online can hurt feelings, affect offline relationships and even jeopardize future opportunities.

Block and ignore

If your child/pupil receives unwanted tweets from another Twitter user, Facebook recommends that he or she block that user and end communication. Ignoring the content shows unwillingness to engage in such interaction, and in most cases, the aggressor loses interest. Blocking the user will empower your child/pupil by preventing the blocked user from following them.

When it has gone too far

If the unwanted online behavior is persistent, it may be rooted in "real world" relationships. If your child/pupil is experiencing repetitive bullying or interpersonal conflicts that are also taking place online, consider taking the following actions.

Report a violation

Get to know the [Twitter Rules](#). If you believe an account is violating our rules, you or your child can [file a report](#).



Safety tips for Young People

Think before you tweet

Most of the communication taking place on Twitter is viewable to everyone. Since the information posted on Twitter is public, it can be retweeted on the site by anyone who sees it. While Tweets can be protected so only approved followers can see them, most users share their Tweets with everyone. If you want your Tweets to only be available to approved followers, you should [protect your Tweets](#).

Remember that once you've posted something on the Internet, it's highly unlikely you can delete or remove it before someone else sees it. Ask yourself, "Would I say the same thing offline in front of my parents, teachers, principal, or potential employer?" If the answer is "no," carefully consider whether or not you should Tweet it.

Don't share your account

If you share your account username and password with someone else, that person could post Tweets pretending to be you, or change the password and email on your account and lock you out. Pick a strong password and don't share it with anyone.

Respect others

Remember that others are entitled to their opinions, just as you are entitled to yours. If you don't agree with someone, it's fine to discuss the disagreement—but once it's clear that the situation has escalated, arguing further may not make the other person change his or her mind.

Don't feed the trolls and don't be a troll. If someone posts something about you that you do not like, consider asking them to take it down. Likewise, if you post a photo or information about someone else and they ask you to remove it, respect their privacy and retain their trust by taking it down.

Block and ignore

If you are receiving unwanted Tweets, we've found that the most successful response is to simply block the user and ignore the comments. If you don't engage the bully, they often lose interest and stop harassing you. If you're being bullied online as a continuation of bullying you're experiencing offline, please talk to a trusted adult or report the bullying to the appropriate authorities.

When it has gone too far

Sometimes online relationships or interactions can affect you offline. If you feel uncomfortable or unsafe as a result of something that happened online, it's important you take steps to address your feelings. Consider the following possibilities:

Talk it out

When dealing with negative or hurtful interactions, it can help to turn to siblings, parents, teachers or other people you trust for support and advice. Often, talking it out with your parents or a close friend may help you figure out how you want to handle the situation or let you express your feelings so you can move on.

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For more information visit: <https://support.twitter.com/>



Facebook

Safety Tips for Parents/Carers/Teacher

- Know your school's policy on using social media in the classroom and comply.
- Use groups to control membership and facilitate discussion.
- Be a role model as a good online user.
- Report inappropriate content to Facebook.



Safety Tips for Young People

- Don't share your password with anyone.
- Only accept friend requests from people you know.
- Don't post anything you wouldn't want your parents, teachers or employer to see.
- Be authentic. The real you is better than anything you might pretend to be.
- Learn about privacy settings, and review them often.

Staying safe

How you present yourself on Facebook says a lot about who you are — just like what you say and do at school or with your friends. In all public places, online and off, it's important to represent yourself as the kind of person you want to be.

The importance of being you

Facebook is a community where people use their real names and identities, so we're all accountable for our actions. It's against the Facebook terms to lie about your name or age.

Think before you post

It's easy to get caught up in the moment and write or do something that may seem hilarious at the time. But remember, what you say can really hurt someone, or come back to haunt you. Think before you post. It only takes a second or two. Ask yourself if you really want to say it. Make sure you don't mind if your friends, classmates or teachers hear about it later.

Also remember that any information you post – whether in a comment, a note or a video chat – might be copied, pasted and distributed in ways that you didn't intend. Before you post, ask yourself - would I be OK if this content was shared widely at school or with my future employer? At the same time, we all make mistakes. If you find yourself wishing you hadn't said or done something, it's never too late to apologise.

Don't talk to me anymore

If you ever receive hurtful or abusive messages or posts on your profile page you have options. Depending on how serious the situation is, you can ignore it, ask the person to stop unfriend or block the person, or tell your parents, a teacher, a counsellor or another adult you trust. Everyone deserves to be treated with respect.

Report abusive content

Make sure you always report abusive content—whether it's on your profile page, or someone else's. You can also report inappropriate Pages, Groups, Events and fake or impostor profiles. (Remember that reporting is confidential, so no one will know who made the report).

For more information visit: www.facebook.com/safety/