

# Online Safety

## Reporting to social media sites

### Online safety is everyone's responsibility.

This week we will be looking at what parents need to know about 'Reporting to social media sites' as advised by the [CEOP team](#).

The simplest way to have information about your child removed from a website or app is to contact the site itself. Here is some further advice.

#### **Parental advice on contacting social media sites**

It's so easy for young people to share online, that sometimes they might post something and wish that they hadn't.

If your child has posted something that they regret onto social media or another site, you should advise them to delete it from their account as quickly as they can.

#### **What if someone else has posted something about your child?**

Most websites provide an option for users to report to them to request removal of 'content' – such as videos, pictures, comments or profiles – that might be upsetting.

It's important to know that making a report doesn't mean the content will definitely be removed.

Most websites, including social media sites, have a set of rules - 'Terms of Use' - which they expect people using their site to obey. You or your child should check if any of the rules have been broken because websites will only take content down if this is the case.

Facebook calls their rules 'Community Standards', YouTube's rules are called 'Community Guidelines' and other sites like Tumblr, Twitter and Instagram have their own sets of rules and ways to report.

You should also make sure your child understands how to report content to the site.

The quickest way of removing content posted by others, is to ask the person who has posted it to take it down - if known to your child.

If your child has been a victim of online bullying and has had a nasty message, picture or video posted about them, you can ask their school for support to help find out who might have posted the content. In addition to your child speaking to you, they may wish to talk to someone outside of the family about what has happened to them and how it made them feel. Let them know that they can always call Childline with any worry, big or small on 0800 11 11.

#### **How to reduce the risk of your child being in an upsetting situation**

In order to avoid these sorts of situations in the first place, it's worth sitting down with your child before they start using any website and reading the terms and conditions to learn what is, and what isn't, acceptable on the site.

You should check whether your child is old enough to have an account with a particular social media website. Many social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok require users to be 13 years old and will deactivate the accounts of any users suspected to be under this age.

**Other tips for increasing your child's online security:**

- Children should use their own dates of birth; using false ones can alert followers that content aimed at older children can be shared with your child
- Set their privacy settings to medium or high. Without updating their privacy settings, anyone can contact them and their profile information is visible
- Explain to them that they should not share personal information with people you do not know, such as your address, school, parents name, etc.
- Children often share their passwords. Know your child's passwords and discuss that passwords are "secret" words and should not be shared with friends.
- Children sometimes leave themselves signed in at friend's house on someone else's mobile device or computer. We suggest that you remind them to always be sure to log out.
- If your child receives an unwanted friend invitation be sure to ignore the request and also block this person from contacting again.

Children should only have followers that they know. It is estimated that your child is 7 times more likely to be bullied on line if they have not set their accounts to private and therefore do not have control over who messages them or shares their messages.

*Please take note of what your parental responsibility is to ensure that your child is safer online.*



***Working together to keep our children safe and happy online.***