

Using social media for scouting – Facebook

Social networking offers a world of possibilities to scouting and as a means of supporting communication and collaboration with young people particularly Explorer scouts.

The Scout Association takes the safety of adults and young people very seriously and we expect all participants using scouting social media sites to comply with the following rules.

- Always think carefully about how any digital communication might appear to a third party. Compared with a conversation in the real world, technology increases the potential for messages to be seen out of context, misinterpreted or forwarded to others.
- The use of sarcasm and innuendo are not appropriate.
- Never give out personal information to online friends. This includes an instant messaging ID, email address, mobile number, school name and any pictures of you, your family and friends.
- If something is published online, anyone can access it, change it or share it with others. Keep social network profiles private.
- Use webcams with caution and only with family and friends who are already known in the real world, as images can be copied, changed and shared.
- Do not post inappropriate images of yourself online which send out the wrong impression and make you vulnerable.
- Remember that online friends are just that and if they are not known to you in the real world, they may be lying about who they are.
- Children and young people should never meet up with a person they have met online unless they take a trusted adult with them.
- Think before opening files from people you do not know in the real world. They may contain anything from a virus to an inappropriate image or film and should be deleted.
- Know how to block someone online and report them to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) if you feel uncomfortable. Save the www.clickceop.net website to your favourites so that you can report any suspicious behaviour straight away.

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

www.scouts.org.uk/safeguarding

Security settings: It's important that you regularly review your security settings to ensure you do not allow people outside of your friends to have access to your personal information like your e-mail address or phone number.