Staying safe online

Parents and carers play a key role in supporting children to learn about how to stay safe online, and they are one of the first people children turn to if things go wrong. It can be difficult to stay on top of the wide range of sites and devices that young people use, so the UK Safer Internet Centre have devised a helpful four-step guide, as listed below, to assist parents/carers:

Four steps:
1. Have ongoing conversations with your children about staying safe online

2. Use safety tools on social networks and other online services, e.g. Facebook privacy settings

3. Decide if you want to use parental controls on your home internet

4. Understand devices and the parental control tools they offer Parents' Guide to Technology

More information about staying safe online can be found here and also via the www.thinkyouknow.com

A reminder to parents regarding the following guidelines for the some of the popular social media platforms:

*   **Whatsapp:** 16 years old.

*   **Facebook**: requires everyone to be at least 13 years old before they can create an account. Creating an account with false info is a violation of their terms. This includes accounts registered on the behalf of someone under 13.

*   **Instagram**: requires everyone to be at least 13 years old before they can create an account.

*   **Snapchat**: no one under 13 is allowed to create an account or use the services.

*   **Twitter**: children must be at least 13 years old to use the services.