

Information for Young People: Keep Safe Online

The internet is a fantastic! You chat to your friends, meet new people, keep up to date with everything that is going and share photos and videos, even play games and talk to people all over the world without even needing to leave your room- how great is that!

But just consider this....

Would you walk down the street alone, late at night in the dark?

Would you visit a new place or someone you never met before all on your own?

Would you go somewhere alone without anyone knowing where you are going?

You probably answered a big fat 'NO' to all of these questions.

So think about when you are online...

How often do you go online on your own?

How often does someone else know where you are going?

How often do you share information or chat with someone you don't know or have never met?

You probably answered 'All the time' for most of the questions.

So...next time you are online, just think about if the situation was *'offline'*:

Would you go there? Would you say that? Would you show that? Would you go alone?

When you are talking to that new friend you just met online who shares your likes and dislikes- how do you know they are the person they say they are? Or when you are sharing your news and photos or videos about what you did at the weekend or that new top you just bought- how do you know the person seeing them is who you meant to see it? And how do you know what they are then doing with that information? Who are they sharing it with? Is it something you want anyone and everyone to see or know?

The important thing to remember when you are online- you don't always know who you are talking to and you don't always know where your information is going. You may think you have removed or deleted something from view but how do you know what someone else has done with it or how far and wide they have shared it?

Always think about what photos, videos and messages you put online and who you speak to. Remember- IF IT'S ONLINE, IT'S LIKELY TO BE ONLINE FOREVER!

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