**What should you do?**

* Encourage your child to talk to you and be open.
* Place the computer or laptop in a family area so the content is not secret.
* Regularly make checks of your children’s communication and friends.
* Reassure your child this is your parental responsibility and for their safety.
* If you’re unsure how to sort privacy settings ask someone that knows-we can help.
* Contact the police if you have any concerns about any person contacting your child on-line.
* Tell your child the risks and reasons they should be careful.



**Things to be aware of**:  
Your children can be exposed accidentally to sexual or explicit language.

Some apps and websites ask for personal information such as your address to become a member.

It is almost impossible to know for sure if they are speaking to someone the age or gender they think they are.

Personal details and photos of your child should only be circulated to friends they know.

Make sure ‘friends’ are real and not fictitious.



Informative link:  
[www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/15-sitesandword-apps-kids-r-heading-2-after-facebook](http://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/15-sitesandword-apps-kids-r-heading-2-after-facebook)

There are three main ways to put in place parental controls.

**Internet Service Providers (ISPs).** These are companies that provide broadband in your home (like Virgin Media, Talk Talk, Sky and BT). All of the major companies provide parental control packages. These allow you to apply controls with all of the devices that access the internet through your home connection – such as laptops or games consoles.

**Devices that connect to the internet.** Most computers, mobiles and games consoles now come with parental controls that can be applied. For example, within Windows and the Mac operating systems, there are parental controls that can be set for individual devices.

**Software.** There are a wide range of packages available to buy or sometimes download for free – always look for reputable companies and check out reviews online.

**Pinterest**

These are all Social Websites and there may even be more!! …..Social Media can be a fun way for your children to contact their friends but….it is also a way your children can talk to absolutely anyone, anywhere, child or adult, boy or girl.

Do you know who your children are chatting with?

Do you check their phones, Ipads, tablets, computers, laptops regularly?

There are people that pretend to be children so that they can talk to children!

Is your child being bullied using these sites?

Is your child bullying others using these sites?

Do you have privacy settings on your computer?

Games such as ‘Grandtheft Auto’, glorify sexism, crime.

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**Facebook**

Some things online can upset or worry your child. There are packages that can help you control this.

Every parental control package is different, but most provide services such as;

* Filtering – this will restrict access to particular sites, such as pornographic websites.
* Time limits – restrict the amount of time your child can be online, or set periods of time where your child can access certain sites.
* Monitoring – where you are informed of certain sites that your child is attempting to gain access to.
* Reporting – where you are provided with information about what sites your child has used.

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**Skype**

**Omegle**

**Viber**

**penpal**

**Flickr**

**kik**

**Instagram**

**Tumblr**

**Facetime**

**oovoovoo**

**Twitter**

**bebo**

**Gifboom**

**friendsbook**

**Snapchat**

**Tango**

**Whatsapp**

**Glide**

Have you heard of…

Secret-speak freely

Whisper

**YikYak**

Metime

Tinder

Skout