

Twitter

You can report individual tweet, photos, users and more on Twitter. You will need to submit a support ticket with information about the violation.

You will need a Twitter account to report a violation. For detailed steps on how to report the different types of violations, please see:

<https://support.twitter.com/groups/33-report-a-violation/topics/122-reporting-violations/articles/15789-how-to-report-violations#>

Parental Guide to Social Networking



Dominican College

What is Social Networking?

LinkedIn. Bebo. Twitter. MySpace. Facebook, of course. All what we now know as social networking websites. And all part of an explosive ever-changing online web culture which continually impacts on the way we all use the internet.

In Ireland Facebook, is the network of choice for the majority of children although Twitter and MSN are also popular. The hundreds of millions of Facebook users sign up to activate a personal profile where they can develop contacts through searching for friends and can be part of various different groupings. Groups include universities or schools where relevant educational resources can be shared. Sharing videos and articles is a huge aspect of the site's success as is sharing pictures - and the most trivial detail of one's life. Whatever the rationale, though, for setting up a profile online, social networking websites are undoubtedly among the most popular internet sites for young people surfing the web.

But with such popularity, also comes great risks. Many people, not just teens, are sharing the most personal of data online in a very public manner. Privacy settings can be tightened, but social networking is essentially a form of publishing which bring many legal and social connotations. In recent years, as the growth of social networking continued at pace with the development of Twitter, a site which allows people to 'tweet' short messages to thousands of 'followers' instantaneously, debates around racist, defamatory and provocative material have become common. Indeed, there have been many cases of youths - and adults - being jailed or fined for posting obscene material on social networking sites.

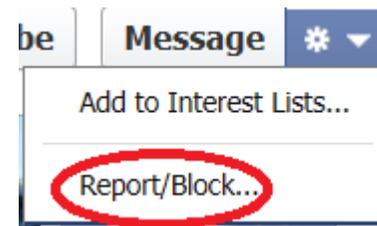
Users send "friend requests" to people who they may - or may not - know.

Advice from the JMB(Joint Managerial Body)

Before you report a violation, try to differentiate between content that is unpleasant and content that is clearly abusive and requires reporting. Next, take screenshots of offensive behavior and save and date the screenshots in case they are used for any future escalation. Content that is there today may be gone tomorrow. It is also advised to become familiar with the terminology used on social media sites - 'likes', 'tweets', 're-tweets', MEMEs etc. (glossary in useful links). You should then follow the reporting procedure on the specific social media site - below is information on how to report violations on Facebook and Twitter.

Facebook

You can report any type of content on Facebook - an image, a post, a page, an ad, a video and more. You can also report users and groups. You do not have to be a Facebook account holder to report a violation. Each piece of content on Facebook has a drop-down 'arrow' menu beside it from which you can select 'Report' and you will then be asked to provide details on what type of violation it is



For detailed information on how to report violation, please click on this link

<https://www.facebook.com/help/?faq=247013378662696>

drawing other privileges.

It is important that you reassure your child from the outset that they can come to you about anything they may have seen on the internet.

Make sure the channels of communication are always open.

Remember that banning or forbidding a site outright may simply mean that your child will hide their use from you which will mean they cannot talk to you if they encounter problems.

How to Respond to Bullying Messages on Ask.fm

This four step mantra applies just as well to Ask.fm as to all other online situations:

If someone makes contact with you in an inappropriate or hurtful way, **block** them, **keep the message** or comment as evidence, and **report** them to the owner of the website. **Don't respond** to bullying or harassing contacts - this just creates more trouble. In the case of bullying messages you should talk to a teacher, parent or a trusted adult you know about it.

More serious cases that could be illegal - be reported to the Gardaí or anonymously to www.hotline.ie,

Facebook has over 900 million users

Once accepted, the two profiles are connected with both users able to see whatever the other person posts.

"Facebookers" can post almost anything to their "timeline", a snapshot of what is happening in their social circle at any given time, and can also enter private chat with other friends who are online.

People with profiles list information about themselves. Whether it be what they work at, where they are studying, ages, or other personal details, many users post lots of information which is easily accessible to their friends and others.

On top of this, users can "like" other pages which interest them. For example, a Liverpool FC supporter can follow the club by linking up with its Facebook page. There, the user can post comments and receive club updates, pictures etc.

Why is it so Popular?

.Social networking websites allow young people to experiment with who they are. They are popular because teens can find their own, uninhibited voice online which they can share with friends. Some teens feel they can express themselves easier online when compared to the real world because perhaps they feel the virtual world is more secure.

Teenagers love Facebook because they can personalise their profile. In much the same way that other generations may have plastered their bedroom walls with posters of their favourite bands or soccer teams, young people now take part in personalising their own space online with pictures, music, videos and comments. Teens also see Facebook as a no-parent zone, where

Useful links: <http://www.webwise.ie/>

National Parents Council Primary Helpline on Tel: 01-8874477

or email: helpline@npc.ie.

www.hotline.ie,

Childline at 1800 666 666.

they can hang out with friends away from the prying eyes of older people.

The site has made communicating much easier too. Rather than picking up the telephone to ring your friend's house, teens can instantly and directly communicate with their friends on Facebook.

What are the Risks of Using Social Networking Websites?

Like most online activity, there are risks to the users. Youngsters can come into contact with people who they shouldn't and sadly there are people who will try to take advantage of children online.

On social networking websites, bullying and harassment appear to be among the most prevalent problems and include the posting of nasty, mean or threatening messages on user profiles, as well as the setting up of fake profiles to poke fun at someone. It's worth pointing out also that young people may not only fall victim to these harmful behaviours but they may also be involved in initiating or perpetrating the same against other children.

The big difference between writing nasty messages on the back of a school book and posting it on the internet is that the messages can be seen by a very wide audience almost instantly. Kids also feel they can hide behind anonymity online.

Harmful and inappropriate content, like videos and pictures relating to sex, violence, discrimination, drug addiction, and cult worship are all issues which also worry parents.

Here, **Webwise** outlines some of the main issues which parents have concerns about:

Privacy: Teens can sometimes forget that what is posted on Facebook is essentially a form of publishing and, unless profiles are set to private, anyone

Setting rules and boundaries around your child's use of this site is important.

All children are different and parents need to decide what approach is best for their child. Typical approaches vary: from agreeing what is suitable behaviour on the site, regularly monitoring their activity, or not allowing them to use it at all.

At the very least you should agree that they will always treat others with respect and let you know if anything happens that upsets them.

For rules and boundaries to be really effective they are best developed between you and your child. Having this chat with your child can give you a lot of information about their online activity and concerns.

The conversation surrounding the agreement of rules can often be as useful as the contract itself.

If your child has had an input in developing the agreement in relation to their use of Ask.fm they are more likely to see the rules and sanctions as fair and are therefore more likely to abide by them or discuss them at a later date if they feel they should be changed.

It is also worthwhile to be up front about sanctions for not sticking to the agreement.

Rules work best when agreed together

One of the reasons children say they don't tell parents about things they come across on the internet, is because they feel parents may take away their internet access.

You should consider using other sanctions, like extra chores or with-

alised, abusive and bullying content

The fact that you can ask someone whatever you like or post anything on their profile without revealing who you are, seems to heighten the levels of disinhibition often associated with young people communicating online. In other words, we tend to say things to people online that we wouldn't say to their face - this is exaggerated when we communicate anonymously.

The result is that liberally scattered amongst the questions about celebrity and lifestyle are highly sexualised, abusive, and downright nasty questions and comments.

The site also raises many issues around privacy. It has very few privacy controls which mean that both questions and answers can be viewed by anyone, even non-users of the site. This is the default setting and there doesn't appear to be an option to change this: once a post is published it is publicly accessible.

In short: Ask.fm lacks even the most basic technical protections for young users. There is no mechanism to report abusive content on the site. No source of advice for young users, and no privacy controls.

Advice for Parents About Ask.fm

Above all else, it is vital that you have good, open communication with your child about what they do online. Remember you may not know all there is to know about tweets, blogs and apps but you do know about parenting and all the same principles apply.

You should sit down with your child and discuss their use of Ask.fm.

can view the information. Often, teens post too much personal information online like photos or phone numbers

Predators: While rare, there have been instances where predators and other unscrupulous individuals have targeted young people on Facebook. Due to its nature, the site can be easily accessed and is full of personal information

Cyberbullying: Facebook provides bullies with a new and fertile battlefield where they can inflict maximum damage on their target through repeated use of nasty messages and other means. There are numerous stories of hijacked profiles or serious instances of cyberbullying which have led to suffering for victims

Meeting Contacts: Many parents fear that young people will meet face-to-face with people they first met online. With this there are obvious risks. Some young people will take online contacts at face value, but unfortunately not everybody is genuine

Content: Sometimes, there can be content on Facebook which is unsuitable for young people and will upset them. Because of Facebook's popularity, there are a lot of older users and often children can be exposed to things parents would prefer they were not

Webwise lays out some of the Dos and Don'ts which will help keep kids away from danger online.

The Dos

Do think carefully about how you present yourself when choosing a profile image. Your online reputation is important. Think also about the language you use even if used jokingly - what you say and do online will lay

down your digital footprint

Do know who can access your personal information. Many sites allow you to decide which parts of your profile can be accessed by others. Assume that everything is public. Opting for private doesn't always mean that only your friends can see your profile

Do trust your instincts. If something doesn't look or feel right, it probably isn't. If you find something online that you don't like, turn off the computer and tell an adult

Do be careful with your personal information. As soon as posts go online, you have lost control over who will see it and how it will be used. Pictures can easily be copied and shared, altered or distorted by thousands of others at the click of a button. Don't post pictures you wouldn't want everyone you know to see, including parents and teachers

Do be careful with the personal information of others. Don't tag others in photos without their permission. Don't share their personal details and information with the world. They have a right to privacy and you have a responsibility to protect it

The Don'ts

Don't assume everyone you meet online is who they claim to be. Information provided by users when they are registering is not checked. Anyone can create a fake profile

Don't post information that could be used to find you offline. Be careful of posting photos with things like car registration plates or identifiable landmarks. Don't post messages about your daily routine. There are people out there who will piece together information about you

Don't reply to abusive or upsetting messages. This is exactly what cyberbullies want. They want to know they've got to you and that you are worried and upset. They want to think that they are important by

being able to get a reaction from you. Don't give them that satisfaction. Stay in control

What is Ask.fm?

Ask.fm is a question platform site and is among the latest breed of web apps to become popular with Irish children. It's one of many similar websites now easily accessible online but is ahead of rivals like Formspring and Spillit with young Irish users.

Ask.fm is a question asking and answering service that gives people the opportunity to ask and answer controversial questions totally anonymously. The answers can be either in text or video format, and users can also browse other people's profiles with the option of submitting questions directly to them.

Typical questions that appear on the site include, "What would you do if you won the lotto?", "What is the scariest movie you have ever seen?", and "What was the last YouTube video you saw?"

This site is highly integrated with popular social networking sites like Facebook, Tumblr and Twitter. Users can invite their friends and followers to ask them questions by posting links on their timelines or twitter feeds. Users can also share questions or responses on a user's ask.fm profile on Facebook by 'liking' them.

What are the Risks for Children Using Ask.fm?

The unique selling point of Ask.fm is its guarantee of anonymity, with the website recently telling its followers on Twitter it will never release the information of anyone who posts to the site. The site contains sexu-