

# Facing up to Facebook – the magic 13!

## 13 Reasons Why Facebook is for 13 year olds

Facebook, Twitter and other social media are increasingly being used by children under 13 years of age to socialise, to share photos, videos, links and information, to chat, to plan social events and so on.

1. The minimum age to open a Facebook account is **13 years**
2. Facebook has **additional protection** and **security settings for teens (age 13-17)**.
3. Facebook advertisements or apps may have content that is **not appropriate** for under 13s
4. Facebook **expects parents** of under 13s to show their children how to **delete** their Facebook account, if they have one
5. Facebook expects all users to use their real name and identities. ***It's against Facebook terms to lie about your name or age***
6. Every word, message, image and video you add to Facebook will **be there forever unless you take it down**
7. Facebook **expects parents** to discuss online safety with their child and to set ground rules
8. Every image, including your profile photo, can be **copied** by others, **changed** by others and be **online forever!**
9. Facebook games may have **different T & C** to Facebook and only be suitable for **over 18s**
10. Facebook **Timeline** is an online representation of your child's life based on the information they and others added. What does their **timeline reveal about them?**
11. Facebook will **remove images that break copyright law or are pornographic** but will not remove photos you just don't like!
12. Facebook Places uses **GPS**, to enable users to **share their location** in posts. Do you want your child's online friends to know where they are?
13. Facebook has a **safety centre specifically for parents**.  
<http://www.facebook.com/safety/groups/parents/>



## 13 Ways to 'Stay Safe' on Facebook

*Does your child have a Facebook account?*

*What are you doing to keep your child and your family safe?*

Here are 13 things we can all do today to help '**Stay Safe' on Facebook**

1. **Preview** your profile to see how it looks to others
2. Make sure that you are not a victim of 'Frapping'. Have a **strong password** and **logout** when not using Facebook
3. Check your **privacy settings** – do you know who can see your phone number or post on your timeline? What about your **child's timeline!**
4. Turn **Facebook chat** on and off to control who knows you are online. You can also see your chat history
5. Edit the privacy settings of the **Apps** you use and your **Photo albums**
6. **Review posts and photos** that you are tagged in before they appear in your profile by editing your 'timeline and tagging' settings
7. Check before adding content, including photos, that you have the right to do so. **Facebook expects you to do this**
8. Always be nice online, just as you are in the real world. **Facebook does not tolerate bullying or harassment**
9. **Report abusive or offensive content** that you believe breaks Facebook T & C by using the "**Report**" at the top right of the comment. Reports are anonymous and you will not be identified
10. Check your online friends are friends in the real world. You can easily **unfriend or delete** a friend - they will not be told
11. Create a **Facebook group for your family** so that you have a private space to keep in touch, share photos and learn about Facebook together
12. Read the **T & C** to make sure you know what **Facebook expects** from you!
13. Visit the **Facebook Safety Centre** <http://www.facebook.com/safety/tools/>