



St Jude's Online Safety Newsflash



Did you know that more than three-quarters of under-13s are using social networks despite age limits? A BBC survey found that 78% of under 13s were using at least one social network despite being under the age limit.



Online Safety Top Tips of the Week



How to help keep your child safe when using social media:



1. Familiarising yourself with popular social platforms will give you a better understanding of how each service works. You may also want to create your own profile on these sites and apps to experience the networks first hand.



2. When deciding what age you'll let your children use social media, keep in mind that most social networks require users to be 13 or older to create an account. The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) prevents companies from collecting personal information about children under the age of 13 without their parents' permission.



3. Discuss real-life situations in which social media can pose harm, like stories in the news about children being cyberbullied. It's crucial to make clear that your child can come to you with questions or help, at any time.



4. Rather than keeping a computer in your child's bedroom, keep it in a central and open location in your house. This way, you can easily keep an eye on your child's social media usage.



5. Check your child's privacy settings on each social network consistently. Social networks are constantly updating and changing their sites and apps, so you'll want to make sure your child's profile is as secure as it can be.

