



Keeping our communities  
safe and reassured



# Keeping you informed

Dear Parent,

We have recently had some concerns reported to us about associations pupils have made with people they do not really know on social networking sites such as Facebook. We are currently making some enquiries into these matters.

I wanted to take this opportunity to make you aware of the dangers of your children using social networking and online chat rooms. We would encourage you to check all social networks to see what information your child is sharing with complete strangers and how they may be putting themselves and others at risk.



Inspector Clare Riley  
Staffordshire Moorlands  
Local Policing Team

**Do you know who your children are talking to online?**

**Is your child safe from cyber bullying?**

**What information are your children posting about themselves on-line?**

The following websites provide advice for parents and carers with some great conversations starters - [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)  
[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)



More information:  
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## **Here are four things you should discuss with your child to help them protect themselves when socialising online:**

- Know who your friends are. Because 'friends' have access to their personal information and can chat to them, your children should only be friends with people that they trust. Talk to your child about who their 'friends' are, encourage them to think about where and when they 'met' people and whether it is appropriate to share information with them.
- Manage the information you share with them. On most sites, children can control the amount of information they share with different groups of friends. For example, you might share some holiday snaps just with your family, or create a private invitation to a party. Your child should only share personal information, like their telephone number or school, with people they know and trust in the real world.
- Never meet up with someone you only know online. People might not always be who they say they are. Make sure your child understands that they should never meet up with anyone they only know online without taking a trusted adult with them.
- Know what to do if someone upsets you. Sometimes 'friends' can do things that are upsetting, it's important that you and your child are aware of what you can do to block or report this – for more information on steps you can take

**If you have any concerns that you would like to discuss with an officer further please do not hesitate to contact us by calling 101.**



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