

Shotley Community Primary School

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Dear Parents,

We have been made aware by the local Police that some of the social networking sites that the children are using on the internet, such as UTube, Bebo, MySpace, etc. are not secure. There have been some instances locally, where adults have approached young people through Bebo and Facebook inappropriately asking them for photographs. This is serious and places children at risk. Please be vigilant to the dangers of inappropriate contact on-line.

Tips for young people:

1. *Keep your personal information secret - do not put any personal information on your profile.*
2. *If you do decide to put anything personal on the site check with your parent or guardian.*
3. *Remember it is public - the whole world could be tuning in.*
4. *Check out the features - learn how to make your profile private so that you are in control.*
5. *Think twice - profiles stay on-line forever.*
6. *Not everyone is who they claim to be.*
7. *Keep your on-line friends on-line and never meet someone you haven't met so far in person without your parent or another responsible adult going with you.*
8. *Tell a trusted adult about anything that makes you feel uncomfortable.*

Extra tips for parents:

1. *Stay involved - get your child to show you how social networking works.*
2. *Join your child's friends' site to see what they are doing.*
3. *Help your child set up their profile to make sure they do not put too much personal information on-line.*
4. *Talk to your child about what they like about social networking and what some of the dangers are.*
5. *Remember - social networking can be useful and fun if the risks are managed.*
6. *Keep the lines of communication open with your children.*

If you are aware of any incidents to do with on-line safety you should inform the police immediately on 01473 613500.

Melanie Newman