

Internet and Social Media Concerns that ALL parents need to know.

Did you know????

34% of kids have friends online they've never met in person

46% of kids have given out personal information to someone they've met online

32% of all teens on the Internet say they have been a victim of cyberbullying

29% of all social media users have a second 'secret' account

Social Media Sites have a minimum age limit for users to register – Facebook - 13 yrs, Instagram - 13 yrs, MySpace - 14 yrs, Kik - 17 yrs!!

(Info from Family Online Safety Institute Worldwide Forums)

Every day we at school are contacted by parents regarding Internet and Social Media issues. Things that have happened at home, on weekends, or even late at night!

The Internet and Social Media Sites are not going to go away; they are and will continue to be a large part of our lives. So the best thing you can do is to EDUCATE your children, WORK with them, MONITOR their Internet usage, and be the person in control of their account.

If your child is on these sites then you need to parent them. You need to keep them safe! YOU need to be in charge of their account as the responsible adult.

As Parents you need to do read and act on, these 5 very important points, when it comes to Social Media.

1. Ask for their password, or better still, you have the password for their account and check their account daily.
2. Setup your own account and be a friend or follower of your children. This way you can see what is being posted.
3. If they don't agree to points one or two, then the decision is very simple.... **Delete their account!**
4. Read what experts are saying about these sites, and if you still want your children to use them, make sure you put some boundaries and safety measures in place.
5. Check what accounts your child has on Social Media. If they have **Kik** or **Ask FM** then I urge you to read these 2 links. You will be shocked at what these two very dangerous sites offer your children.

<http://www.bewebsmart.com/internet-safety/is-kik-okay-for-kids/>

<http://www.hightechdad.com/2013/06/05/parents-be-warned-ask-fm-is-a-dangerous-deadly-social-site-for-teens-tweens/>

“Children aged Under 13 years of age don't have the mental, social or emotional capacity to handle all that happens on Social Media.” (Dr Michael Carr-Gregg)

REMEMBER YOU ARE THE PARENT, THEY ARE THE CHILDREN. ENSURE THEY GROW UP IN THEIR TIME, RATHER THAN BEING BROUGHT UP BY SOCIAL MEDIA