



COOMB BRIGGS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Royal Drive, Immingham, N.E. Lincolnshire DN40 2DY

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SAFEGUARDING/SOCIAL NETWORKS

Dear Parents/Carers

There have always been issues with personal safety, privacy and identity theft when using Social Media - in particular **facebook**

Facebook's Statement of Rights and Responsibilities says that you need to be 13 years old to have an account on Facebook. If a child under this age has an account, then this has been obtained dishonestly (sometimes with an adult's knowledge). It is considered to be fraud! (And you have to question why a young child really needs an account anyway?)

In the interest of child protection and safety, under Safeguarding legislation, it is our duty to notify appropriate organisations if we become aware of any pupil at Coomb Briggs operating Facebook accounts.

However, we are also bound to inform you of an application (ClickCEOP) that can be added to accounts run by 'The Child Exploitation Online Protection Unit'. This can be added to children/adult profiles. Through this application you can receive advice, help and support. Crucially, young people can report instances of suspected grooming and/or inappropriate behaviour directly from their profile to specially trained investigators. This will no doubt help young people to stay safe.

To add this vital application visit - www.facebook.com/ClickCEOP

This can then be added or bookmarked so it appears on their profile as not only a constant source of help and reassurance for them, but also as a strong visual signal to their friends, family and others that they are in control online.

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You can also visit <http://ceop.police.uk/> to access information about e-safety and you are able to contact the 'internet' police immediately via this website regarding any e-safety issues.

Identity theft is becoming a big issue as well. Here are some simple steps/checks to help avoid this.

- Don't put your true date of birth (change it slightly - your 'true' friends will know your real date) Banks and online organisations quite often use your DOB as a security check!
- Do you really need your phone number in your profile for all to see?
- Are your pictures available for anyone to see and copy/use? Check your privacy settings! Do your pictures give away locations? School jumper? Works uniform?
- Have you 'checked in' to places? (Letting people know you're out or away?!)
- Not all 'friends' are actually friends! Limit what information they can access.
- Check your privacy settings on your images - each album might need adjusting.

I hope this information helps to keep you and your family safe and secure.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. D Shaw (ICT & Computing Co-ordinator)

Mrs. H Redmond (Head teacher/Child protection Co-ordinator)

You may find the following 2 minute long 'YouTube' video entertaining and very useful. It shows very clearly how our personal/private information may not be so personal or private!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7pYHN9iC9I>