

Protecting your privacy

It's important that people keep their personal details secure. This can be a challenge as there are many places where children can leave their details and images without realising the consequences.

People can use their camera phone to send and receive pictures and videos, so they need to be used carefully. It's important that your children don't misuse them.

Anybody with a camera on their mobile can also use multimedia chat rooms, where photos or video clips are placed in public forums. The photos can then be copied and sent on to other people.

Keeping your information private

Social networking sites have privacy settings to help your children to stay in control of the information they put online. Their personal profiles can be completely private, be shared with just people they allow, or be open to everyone. There are also ways to block contact from others and to check and approve the comments they put on your pages.

Some information services need to know the location of a mobile to send their messages. Location based services can be very useful, but it means someone could find out the whereabouts of a mobile and its owner. It's worth checking the location settings of your child's mobile – you can stop location information being available to everyone except the police.

Call 1300 to check and change the location settings of your mobile.

It's important that your children think about where the personal information they give away and the photos they post online might end up.

Talking points

- Learn how to use the safety features on social networking sites. They can help to protect the information that's most important to you. Always know where to report abuse and where you can get help.
- If you want to post a picture of yourself, think about the kind of attention it might attract. Photos can easily be copied, changed and used somewhere else online and you might not be able to remove them. The same applies to pictures you post of others, so always ask their permission first.
- To stop getting unwanted messages by Bluetooth from people you don't know, you can turn Bluetooth off on your mobile.
- A picture message could contain something that could help someone find out more about you. Clues about who you are can often be found in the background.
- Some people might try to take pictures in inappropriate places, such as at the swimming pool or the beach. If you think you've spotted something and you're worried about it, you should tell an adult straight away.