

Dear Parents,

Internet safety is an area of tremendous concern to schools and parents alike. Partly this is because children often move faster in the digital world than we do. A couple of websites that are very useful in their provision of practical advice are:

<http://www.ceop.gov.uk/>

<http://www.becta.org.uk/>

Did you know that there is a minimum age of **13 years old** for membership of the social networking site Facebook? This is the same for other such sites, though the minimum age for MySpace is set higher at 14 years old.

When setting up an account on these sites, applicants must enter their age and so anyone who is not of an appropriate age is aware that they should not be using the site. Indeed, in order to proceed, they must enter into the deceit of entering a false age.

Social networking sites are a part of the digital revolution through which we are living. That said, these sites can also be a source of bullying which may be especially insidious and hurtful. If your child is under age and has a social networking account with a provider such as Facebook, I would encourage you to shut the account down until such time as they are old enough.

Yours sincerely,

Gavin Horgan.
Deputy Rector