ThinkUKnow e-Newsletter - Issue 13

The internet as we know it today encourages anyone and everyone to share their thoughts, ideas and experiences online. This emphasis on user-generated content is a hallmark of Web 2.0 and whilst it has its positive elements, there are some drawbacks.

Many websites and applications act as a platform for users to express themselves and rely heavily on user regulation of content. This can result in offensive content remaining online until reported to the website administrators who can then remove it.

In this issue of the ThinkUKnow e-newsletter, we will look at how you can reduce the opportunities for offensive content in YouTube and Facebook, as well as how to have such content removed. Remember, the best source of information on reducing and removing content is the safety section of the website itself.

What can parents, carers and teachers do?

It is crucial that parents, carers and teachers are aware of the online applications which young people are using and learn how they operate. Understanding the possibilities that exist for young people to not only come across offensive content, but to create it themselves, will assist parents in guiding the young people in their care to use technology appropriately.

You need to talk to your children about thinking before they post anything online. Considering the impact of their posts on others, as well as how it might affect them personally in the future, is an essential step before clicking the send button.

The majority of young people, and internet Facebook profiles can best be protected from offensive content by ensuring that they are set to private, and that you only add people you actually know offline as your online friends. For more information about safety on Facebook, please visit Facebook Safety Page.

If one of your friends posts something inappropriate, you can delete the comment by clicking on Remove next to their wall post or Delete next to their comment.

If one of your friends repeatedly posts offensive content, you can block them from communicating with you. This can be done by going to their Profile and clicking Report/Block this Person under their information on the left-hand side. Selecting this option will bring up a new window where

Time2Talk

This section provides some useful conversation starters for talking with young people about their use of technology.

Do you have a YouTube account?

Have you ever seen a video on YouTube which you found offensive? What did you do?

Are you a member of any Facebook groups? Have you created one yourself?

How would you feel if someone created a hate group about you on Facebook?

Facebook
users in general, will use these applications responsibly. Unfortunately, some users will behave inappropriately and it is important to learn how to minimise the impact of their actions on your child.

**YouTube**

If you are a member of YouTube, you can control and edit the comments posted on your own profile, channel, and the videos you upload. For more information on this, please visit [YouTube Support](#).

If someone has commented on your YouTube profile and you find it offensive, you can delete it yourself by selecting the number in parentheses next to Comments. This will redirect you to a page where you can view all comments made with a corresponding to checkbox. Select the comment(s) you would like to remove by checking the corresponding box(es) and clicking on the Remove Selected button.

If someone has commented on your YouTube video and you find it offensive, you can delete it yourself by clicking on the Remove link beneath the comment.

If you have uploaded a video, you can control the ability for others to comment on it. In the Info & Settings page for your video, you can select how comments will be allowed for that video in the Broadcasting and Sharing Options section. Under Comments, you can choose to Allow comments automatically; Allow friends’ comments automatically, all others with approval only; Allow all comments with approval only; or Don’t allow comments.

If certain users continue to post offensive content on your videos or profile, you can block them. To block someone, simply go to their Profile and select the Block User option in the Connect with box.

If you see a video which is offensive, you can report it by clicking on the red flag underneath the video. Once it has been flagged, the video will then be reviewed by YouTube to see if it violates their community guidelines.

When you create a Facebook group, you can control who has access to the group with three different levels of access:

- **An Open** group can be viewed and joined by everyone on Facebook or the specific network which it is tied to.
- **A Closed** group allows all users to view limited information but cannot access all content unless they are a member. Administrators of the group must approve membership requests and this allows better control over the group.
- **A Secret** group is one which is not visible or searchable and membership is by invitation only.

To change these access levels, group administrators can select the Edit Group option underneath the group profile picture.

If a user posts something inappropriate on a group you administer, you can delete the comment by clicking on Remove next to their wall post or Delete next to their comment.

You can also block users from a group you administer who repeatedly post offensive content. On the group page, select the Edit Members option and click on Blocked. Select the Block People link, type the name of the person you wish to block and click Find. Select the person you wish to block and click Block.

If you come across a Facebook group which you find offensive, or you think violates Facebook’s Terms of Use, you can report it by selecting the Report Group option on the bottom left-hand side of the group’s page.