FACEBOOK SAFETY FOR EDUCATORS

General Information for Educators

What other resources are available regarding internet safety? Here are some websites with valuable information:

A Thin Line
Beatbullying.org
Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP)
Childnet-int.org
Commonsense.org
ConnectSafely.org
Cyberbullying Research Center
FOSI.org
NCMEC.org
NetSmartz.org
OnguardOnline.gov
TRUSTe.org
UK Council for Child Internet Safety
WebWiseKids.org
WiredSafety
STOP cyberbullying
Teenangels
WiredKids

What should I do if I become aware of an underage user (under thirteen) with an account on Facebook?

Facebook requires its users to be at least 13 years old before they can create an account. Providing false information to create an account is a violation of our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities. If you would like to report an underage user (under 13 years of age), please do so here. We will promptly delete the account of any user under the age of 13 that is reported to us through this form.

How can I maintain a professional presence on the site separate from my personal profile?

If you are a teacher and have a personal profile, you can consider creating a group or a Page specifically for interacting with students, parents, or colleagues. Create Friend Lists to control what parts of your profile students are able to access.

Pages

Pages are for broadcasting great information to people on Facebook. For example, you could create a Page called "Ms. Smith’s 9th Grade Science Class" where you post daily homework assignments. Anyone can become a fan of a Page on Facebook. People who choose to become a fan of a Page will see updates on their profile.

To create a Page, click here. Pages are free, you can control them with your personal profile, and they keep your profile separate from your students.
Groups
Groups make it easy for members of a community to connect, share and even collaborate on a given topic or idea. For example, you could create a group called "American Literature 101 Discussions" where you and your students can contribute to group discussions. Or you could create a group for all of the educators in your your department to collaborate on lesson plans and share ideas. To create a group, click here.

Friend Lists
Friend Lists provide organized groupings of your friends on Facebook. For example, you can create a Friend List specifically for your students. Then you can control which parts of your profile are visible to this entire list. You can also filter your view of each list’s stream of activity separately on the home page, or send messages and invites to this group of people all at once.

Can I set my personal Facebook profile name with my teaching name (eg, Ms. Smith) so that my students can find me?
Unfortunately, titles (ie, Mr. or Ms.) are not allowed in personal Facebook profile names. We recommend that you create a Page to represent yourself as a teacher on Facebook.

What is the Facebook Safety Advisory Board, and what does this board do?
The Facebook global Safety Advisory Board is comprised of five leading Internet safety organizations from North America and Europe. These organizations serve in a consultative capacity to Facebook on issues related to online safety.

Childnet International
Childnet International is a UK-based charity working domestically and internationally to help make the Internet a great and safe place for children and young people, alongside enabling them to use interactive technologies safely and responsibly. Childnet has developed a number of resources designed to help young people and parents assess and manage the risks that they may encounter online:
http://www.childnet.com

Common Sense Media
Common Sense Media is dedicated to improving the lives of kids and families by providing the trustworthy information, education, and independent voice they need to thrive in a world of media and technology:
http://www.commonsense.org

Connect Safely
ConnectSafely.org is the leading interactive resource on the Web for parents, teens, educators – everyone – engaged and interested in youth safety on the fixed and mobile social Web:
http://www.connectsafely.org

The Family Online Safety Institute (FOSI)
The Family Online Safety Institute works to make the online world safer for kids and their families by identifying and promoting best practice, tools and methods in the field of online safety, that also respect free expression:
http://fosi.org
WiredSafety
WiredSafety is the largest online safety, education, and help group program in the world and provides help, information and education to Internet and mobile device users of all ages, especially on cyberbullying matters:
http://www.wiredsafety.org and http://stopcyberbullying.org/

What is the Facebook in Education page?
This page is a resource for teachers, professors, administrators, counsellors and others who work in education. You can refer to this page for privacy tips to help you maintain both a personal and a professional presence on Facebook. You'll also find answers to common questions including how to report abuse to Facebook and the best way to use Facebook as a communication tool in your school.

How can my students report abuse on Facebook?
The most efficient way for your students to report abuse is to do it in the same place it occurs on Facebook. For example, if a student receives a harassing message in their Inbox, the message can be reported by clicking on the "Report" link next to the sender's name on the message. If a student receives a harassing message from a person who is one of their Facebook friends, they should remove the person as a friend and report the message. Reporting the message as harassing will automatically add the person to the Block List. Students can also use the "Report/Block this Person" link that appears at the bottom of an abusive user's profile. If someone is continuing to make abusive comments about a student even after they've been blocked, you or a friend can report that person on the student's behalf. Reports are confidential and the user being reported does not know that they have been reported. After a report is submitted, we will investigate the issue and make a determination as to whether or not the content should remain on the site based on our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities. A Facebook administrator looks into each report thoroughly in order to decide the appropriate course of action.

If a student discloses abuse on Facebook to me, can I file a report on his or her behalf?
Facebook encourages all users to utilize the "Report" links if they become aware of abusive content. You can report abuse on a student's behalf by selecting the proper "Report" link that appears next to many pieces of content on the site. This link takes you to a form where you can specify the type of abuse and make a detailed report. All abuse reports on Facebook are confidential. Please note that you must be a registered Facebook user to file a report.

Addressing Personal Safety
I'm receiving unwanted messages. What should I do?
There are a few things you can do:
You can anonymously report messages by clicking on the "Report Message" link under the name and picture of the sender when viewing their message. Facebook will review your complaint and will act to ensure all users comply with our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities so that Facebook remains a trusted environment where people can interact safely.
You can easily block any user on Facebook from seeing or contacting you by navigating to the "Block List" section on the Privacy Settings page and entering their name or email address in the appropriate fields.
You can limit the people who can find you in searches from the "Basic Directory Information" section of the Privacy Settings page, which in turn limits who can message you. You can also prevent people from messaging you from your search listing from the "Contact Information" section of the Privacy Settings page.

I'm receiving unwanted Wall posts. What should I do? 
There are a couple of options available: 
You can remove any offensive Wall postings by clicking on the "Remove" link that appears on each posting. 
If you would like to prevent the individual from leaving any more unwanted postings, just remove the person as a friend from the Friends page. Only your friends can post on your Wall.

What can I tell my students about preventing or addressing cyberbullying? 
We want Facebook to remain an environment where people can connect and share comfortably. Cyberbullying is defined as the use of any new technology to harass or intimidate someone, and there are steps you can take to prevent this kind of behaviour if it occurs.

Accept Friend Requests Safely

In order to prevent harassment from strangers, tell your students to only accept friend requests from people they know in real life. Also, remind your students to report any messages or profiles that look suspicious. Facebook is based on a real-name culture, and fake profiles are disabled when they're reported to us. Only a student's confirmed friends can post to their Wall or contact them via Facebook Chat, so if they are worried that someone will make inappropriate posts or send offensive messages, you can advise them to ignore that person's friend request.

Use the "Block" Feature to Stop Abusive Behaviour

Your students can use the block feature to prevent all interactions with someone on Facebook. If a student receives inappropriate or abusive communication, they can block the person by listing his or her name or email address in the "Block People" fields at the bottom of the Block List page. You can visit this page at any time by navigating to the "Privacy Settings" option in the Account drop-down menu available from the top of every page.

Report Abusive Behaviour Directly to Facebook

The most efficient way for your students to report abuse is to do it in the same place it occurs on Facebook. For example, if a student receives a harassing message in his or her Inbox, they can report the message by clicking on the "Report" link next to the sender's name on the message. If a student receives a harassing message from a person who is one of their Facebook friends, they should remove the person as a friend and report the message. Reporting the message as harassment will automatically add this person to the Block list. Your students can also use the "Report/Block this Person" link that appears at the bottom of the abusive user's profile. If you learn that someone is continuing to make abusive comments about a student even after they've been blocked, you or a friend can report that person on the student's behalf. Reports are confidential and the user being reported does not know that they have been reported. After a report is submitted, we will investigate the issue and make a determination as to whether or not the content should remain on the site based on our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities. A Facebook administrator
looks into each report thoroughly before taking action. Please note that our team treats reports of harassing messages as a priority.

Restrict Privacy Settings

To restrict the amount of information that potential bullies may have access to, you can advise your students to customize their privacy settings so that certain people can't access information like their Wall, photos, or profile. Your students can also change their privacy settings if they are uncomfortable being found in searches on the site. Privacy on Facebook is controlled primarily from the Privacy Settings page. This page is always available by navigating to the "Privacy Settings" option in the Account drop-down menu available from the top of every page. Please note that minors do not have public search listings created for them, so they do not appear in outside search engines until they have turned 18.

Respond to Abusers in the Right Way

Cyberbullies often seek a reaction from the people they harass. When they fail to get one, they often give up gradually. Rather than responding to a bully via Inbox, a Wall post, or Facebook Chat, your student can use the "Block" or "Report" functions to resolve the issue safely. Remember, only confirmed friends can post to your student's Wall or send your student a message via Facebook Chat. If your student is receiving posts and Chat messages that they don't like, you can help them remove the sender from their friend list. Please note that you should also contact the authorities if you or a student ever feel threatened by something you see on the site.

I need to report an impostor profile.

If someone has created an account to impersonate or imitate you, please go to the impostor profile and click "Report/block this person" at the bottom of the left column. Check the "Report this Person" box, choose "Fake Profile" as the reason, and add "Impersonating me or someone else" as the report type. Be sure to add a valid web address (URL) leading to the real profile so that we can review the information.

What do I do if someone is harassing me on the site or through Inbox?

We suggest that you block the person using the "Block List" option at the bottom of the Privacy Settings page. If this does not resolve the problem, please report the user by clicking the "Report/Block this Person" link that appears at the bottom of the user's profile. To report a user for a message you have received, use the report link located next to the message in your Inbox. Note that you can only report messages from non-friends.

What do I do if someone is attacking me in Facebook Chat?

Please keep in mind that only your confirmed friends can contact you via Facebook Chat. We recommend that you remove this user from your Friend List. If necessary, you may block the person using the "Block List" option available from the bottom of the Privacy Settings page.

Was this answer helpful?
What do I do if someone is attacking me in a public forum?

We suggest that you block the person by listing his or her name in the "Blocking People" box at the bottom of the Privacy Settings page. If this does not resolve the problem, please report the user by clicking the 'Report/Block this Person' link that appears at the bottom of the user's profile.

What do I do if someone has posted a photo of me that I don't like?

Facebook will only remove photos that violate our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities (e.g., pornography or copyrighted images). However, there are some things you can do if you don't like a photo of you on the site:

To remove your name from a particular photo, simply view the photo and click the "Remove Tag" link next to your name. It will no longer be linked to your profile.

Remember that you can only be tagged in photos by your friends. If you are having problems with someone constantly tagging you in embarrassing photos, just remove them as a friend from the Friends page.

If you don't want the photo to be shown at all, please talk to the person who posted it. They should be respectful enough to remove unwanted photos. Unfortunately, Facebook cannot make users remove photos that do not violate our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities.

What do I do when someone has identified me as being in a photo that I'm not in?

Simply view the photo and click the "Remove Tag" link next to your name. The photo will no longer be linked to your profile.

How do I help someone who has posted suicidal content on Facebook?

If you have encountered a direct threat of suicide on Facebook, please immediately contact law enforcement. For reports in the United States, we also recommend that you contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, a 24/7 hotline, at 1-800-273-TALK (8255). If possible, please encourage the user who posted the content to contact Lifeline as well.

You can view a list of suicide prevention hotlines in other countries by visiting http://www.befrienders.org and choosing from the dropdown menu at the top of the page.

We encourage you to learn about how to identify and respond to warning signs of suicidal behaviour online at the following address:


Responding to Objectionable Content
Where else can I report inappropriate or objectionable actions that have been taken against children?

Facebook takes the safety of its users very seriously and takes significant efforts to make sure that the interactions encountered on the site are done so in a safe manner.
We strongly urge all users to report suspicious people and inappropriate content when they come across it on the site. You can notify Facebook of any inappropriate people or content by clicking on the "Report" link located throughout the site. Users under the age of 18 are also encouraged to talk to a parent or a responsible adult immediately if someone online says or does something to make them feel uncomfortable or threatened in any way.

If you are living in the United Kingdom, under 18, and believe that an adult is acting inappropriately towards you on Facebook, please submit an online report to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP):

**What can I tell a student who sees inappropriate content or offensive material on the site?**

Facebook takes the safety of its users very seriously and makes a significant effort to take down any objectionable material that may be posted on the site. We encourage users to report offensive profiles, messages, groups, events, shares, notes and photos through the Report links located near most pieces of content on the site. Reported items are then reviewed by Facebook administrators and removed if deemed in violation of our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities. Users also have the option of "blocking" other users, which will ensure that they are unable to find them in a search, view their profile or send them a message.

**What should I do if I am aware of abuse on Facebook involving students?**

Facebook has report links on the site to help signal abusive content. We recommend that you ask the student involved in the abuse to report the matter using the instructions below:

To report a profile, go to the profile and click "Report/Block this Person in the left column below the profile photo.

To report a photo, go to the specific photo and click "Report This Photo" below the photo.

To report an Inbox message, view the message and click "Report Message" below the sender’s name. Note that you can only report messages from non-friends.

To report a group or event, go to its main page and click the "Report" link below the group or event photo.

To report a Page, view the Page and click "Report Page" in the left column below the Page photo.

If the student involved is unable to report the content, you can also report it yourself. Please note that we are unable to provide information about accounts on Facebook to anyone but the account holder.

**What should my student do if he or she finds an explicit, hateful or otherwise objectionable profile on Facebook?**

We don't want any content like this on Facebook. You can help us out by advising your student to notify us of any objectionable profiles. You or your student can anonymously report offensive profile pictures and content by clicking on the "Report this Person" link located at the bottom of the profile page. The reporter will be asked to specify the offensive content. Facebook will review the complaint and will act to ensure all users comply with our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities so that Facebook remains a trusted environment where people can interact safely.
What do I do if I find an explicit, hateful or otherwise objectionable group on Facebook?

You can anonymously report offensive group photos and content by clicking on the "Report Group" link located under the group's picture. You will be asked to specify the offensive content. Facebook will review your complaint and will act to ensure all users comply with our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities so that Facebook remains a trusted environment where people can interact safely.

What should my student do if he or she sees something explicit, hateful, or otherwise objectionable in a link posted on Facebook?

You or your student can anonymously report offensive links by clicking on the "Report" link located under the saved material. The reporter will be asked to specify the offensive content. Facebook will review the complaint and will act to ensure all users comply with our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities so that Facebook remains a trusted environment where people can interact safely.

What should my student do if someone has posted an objectionable photo on Facebook?

You or your student can anonymously report photos that violate our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities (e.g., pornography) by clicking on the "Report This Photo" link in the bottom right corner below the picture. Facebook reviews these complaints and takes down photos as necessary. It is not a violation of our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities to post a photo that is unflattering, so remind your student not report a photo just because they may not like the way they look in it.

What should my student do if he or she sees a hateful or otherwise objectionable note on Facebook?

You or your student can anonymously report offensive note content and photos by clicking on the "Report This note" link located below the text of each note. The Reporter will be asked to specify the offensive content. Facebook will review your complaint and will act to ensure all users comply with our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities so that Facebook remains a trusted environment where people can interact safely.

My student saw an explicit, hateful or otherwise objectionable advertisement on Facebook. What should I tell them to do?

Please advise your student to fill out this form to report the advertisement. We will use our best efforts to remove any ads that violate our Advertising Guidelines or Statement of Rights and Responsibilities.