SCOUTS UNITAIRES DE FRANCE IN LONDON

INTERNET AND SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDANCE
FOR ADULTS IN THE MOVEMENT

The internet, websites and social media offer a world of possibilities to our Group. Many young people are already users of social networking such as Facebook, instagram, snapchat and Twitter. However, it is essential to ensure that we keep both ourselves and young people safe online and, as adults in scouting we have a key role to play in actively promoting these safety messages.
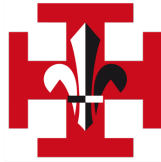
A common sense approach
While social networking profiles are easy to set up and use, it is important that we keep a professional distance online, just as we would in the 'offline' world.

We need to think carefully about how any digital communication might appear to a third party. Compared with a conversation in the real world, technology increases the potential for messages to be seen out of context, misinterpreted & forwarded to others. The use of sarcasm and innuendo are not appropriate on social media and it is essential to remember that we are in a position of trust.

As we have a website and/or have set up a social networking site for our scout group, bear in mind that once we place something there, it is in the public domain, which means people can access it, change it and share it with others.

Guidelines for adults
- Remember you are in a position of trust and should set a good example.
- Remember that some sites have an age restriction (i.e. Facebook has a minimum age of 13 years).
- Conduct yourself in an appropriate way as you would face to face – be aware of what you say and how you say it.
- Don't engage in one-to-one conversations with young people via chat facilities or instant messaging – this is the same as going into a private room with a young person and closing the door.
- Do not provide personal details about young people on your website or social networking group (this includes name, email address, school, etc…)
- Always ensure you have parental permission to use any photos of young people and only use their first names on any caption.
- Only use appropriate photos on your site, the sort that you would be happy putting on a public notice board – remember that everyone can view them.
- If you are concerned about the way a young person is attempting to contact you, report it immediately to your supervisor.
- If you need to email or text young people, always copy the message to another adult from your group. If sending email to groups of people use the Bcc facility to avoid sharing email addresses.
- Do not use your personal social networking account to communicate with young people.
- Monitor places where interaction occurs including walls, discussion boards, comments on photos, tagging of pictures and group or fan pages.
- Only set up pages for events, activities or groups for which you are responsible.
- If you sign yourself up to social networking sites you need to be aware that content is speedily updated.

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- Photos can be tagged and posted on your account.
- Use separate profiles and communication routes for email or social networking to keep contact with young people in scouting and your private life separate.
- All communication with jeannettes/louveteaux/guides/scouts should be done through their parents or carers, not directly.
- Always remember the Young People First code of good practice.

Safety for young people

Most children and young people assume they are safe when using the internet because they are in their own home. They will usually assume that the person they are chatting with is who they say they are and most of the time this is true.

However, the only way to protect young people is to teach them to understand that the online environment – including the risk it poses – so that they can learn to stay safe themselves. This is even more important now that the internet is available on many mobile phones.

It is a good idea to share this basic advice with young people:
- Never give out personal information to online friends. This includes an instant messaging ID, email address, mobile number, school name and any pictures of you, your family and friends.
- If something is published on line, anyone can access it, change it or share it with others. Keep social network profiles private.
- Use webcams with caution and only with family and friends who are already known in the real world, as images can be copied, changed and shared.
- Do not post inappropriate images of yourself online which send out the wrong impression and make you vulnerable.
- Remember that online friends are just that and if they are not known to you in the real world, they may be lying about who they are.
- Children and young people should never meet up with a person they have met online unless they take a trusted adult with them.
- Think before opening files from people you do not know in the real world. They may contain anything from a virus to an inappropriate image or film and should be deleted.
- Know how to block someone online and report them to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) if you feel uncomfortable. Save the https://www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting/ website to your favourites so that you can report any suspicious behaviour straight away.

Training and advise (UK)

CEOP has developed an education programme for 11-16 year olds called Thinkuknow. This can be used as part of the guide and scout training.
www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Other useful sites:
www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/topics/stay-safe
www.childnet-int.org/kia/parents/
http://ceop.police.uk