

We know that many of our pupils have **Facebook** accounts. We wanted to give **some advice** about this. Please contact us if you have any concerns or need any more information.

### My child does not have a Facebook Account...

Facebook's terms and conditions say that you have to be **13** to have an account.

If you are **younger** than this (**all** pupils at Sholing Junior School), you can only join by **falsifying** your date of birth, which is a breach of the terms and conditions.

Anyone under the age of 13 who joins Facebook is presenting themselves as **older than they are**.

Some other people join Facebook and pretend to be younger than they are **specifically to gain access to children**. This could put your child at **significant risk**.

Facebook is **blocked** at school, so children cannot access or join it while they are at school.

### My child has a Facebook account which I know about...

If you have allowed your child to join Facebook in breach of their terms and conditions, this means you are taking **full responsibility** for their account and everything they do with it.

We advise that:

- you look regularly at your child's account including the **friends** they are making and **what they are writing**
- if **you** are on Facebook, be friends with your child – whether they like that or not – so you can monitor activity
- you know their **log on** details and **password** and they have not changed it
- you check they do not have a **second, alternative profile** which you don't know about
- your computer is in public place in the house.

### I don't know if my child has a Facebook account...

This is potentially **very risky**.

This means your child may have joined without you knowing at a friend's house or on your computer – **or on their mobile phone** - without you knowing. They can't join or access Facebook at school.

It means that you don't know who they are **talking to** and who they are **sharing information with**.

If you are unsure about your child's use of social sites such as Facebook or the computer generally, please use the **ThinkUKnow** website – [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

Work through some of the activities with your child so they know about **appropriate behaviour** and how to **stay safe**.



**Any family's use of their own computer is essentially a private matter.**

**However**, if any child's use of Facebook or other websites attacks another pupil or a member of staff at the school, **we will take very serious and immediate action**.

**This will involve the police and the city's legal department. It may lead to civil or criminal action against you or your child. In such cases, we will also work with Facebook to close down accounts of children under the age of 13.**