



## ThinkUKnow e-Newsletter - Volume 5, Issue 5

Earlier this month we recognised Privacy Awareness Week 2014 with a focus on mobile apps and privacy. From discussions we've had with young people and adults, it's clear that there are concerns about how we manage our privacy in the digital landscape. We can take all the precautions available to us, but often the breaches of our privacy are the result of someone else's actions, not our own. To this end, in this issue of the ThinkUKnow e-newsletter we're going to look at what we can do to protect our friends' privacy and create more thoughtful interactions online.

### Let our friends opt in, not opt out

It's the unfortunate reality of many social media services that the default settings are the least private. In other words, we have to "opt out" of sharing our photos and thoughts with the world, rather than "opt in" to such broadcasting. It appears that this mentality has spread from the privacy policies of social media companies to our own interactions with friends and family. We take photos of our friends, we tag them in posts, share their posts with our followers and expect them to have the same privacy threshold as us.

When it comes to things share online, they can be out there forever so we really need to lose the "I'd rather beg for forgiveness than ask for permission" attitude when sharing things about our friends. Digital technologies have made communication and interaction easier, so it's really not that difficult to contact a friend and ask for their ok before we post things. We need to really have a look at what kind of friend,

### Time2Talk

In this section we look at ways to start talking with children and young people about their use of technology.

**How important is privacy to you?**

**Do you think much about managing your friends' privacy?**

**Whose responsibility is to protect our private information?**

**What can I do to better manage your privacy?**

### Respecting a child's right to privacy

Article 16 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child recognises a child's right to privacy, but how often do we see information and photos relating to a child posted all over the internet? Not even posted by the child themselves, but by their parents, family, friends and other people! I am so thankful that the photos my parents took of me as a child are in photo albums under lock and key, and I've even stolen the negatives! They are only shared with people I know and trust and I highly doubt they'll get into the hands of someone who could misuse them.

These days, however, a child's date of birth, full name, weight and length are announced

follower or contact we want to be.

### No one is “asking for it”

Just because someone doesn't have the strictest privacy settings, or posts something personal, or has left their social media account logged in, doesn't mean they are asking for their privacy to be breached. If a person accidentally leaves their house unlocked, it doesn't mean they are asking to be robbed. I mean, come on, do we blame the three bears for goldilocks going into their house and eating their porridge?

Rather than exploit a person's lack of privacy literacy, perhaps we should see these occasions as opportunities for learning. We should guide our friends into becoming more privacy-conscious individuals so that they don't repeat their mistakes.

online for anyone to see. The photos of them being bathed, complaints about their bowel movements, hideous passport photos and embarrassing outbursts are shared digitally and permanently. Whether it's our child, niece or nephew, student, neighbour or friend, before we share something about them, we should consider how it could impact them both now and into the future.

[Please Click Here To Unsubscribe.](#)

