



Corbridge Middle School

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Social Networking Sites

Dear Parents/Carers,

The internet has developed at great pace over the past few years and social networking sites have become very popular. As a school, we welcome the benefits social networking can bring for learning, communication and having fun. It's only natural that children would want to follow the popular trend of joining an online social network and although there are many potential benefits there are also potential risks. E-safety is high on our agenda and your child follows a programme of study in ICT which places much emphasis on the risks; children learn about risks and responsibilities in order to stay safe online.

Social networking sites such as Facebook are popular amongst growing teens. Facebook is a well-known social networking site and many of you will be aware that the site requires users to be at least 13 years old before they can create an account; an age when children should be more aware of the risks and therefore use social networking sites responsibly to keep themselves and others safe.

I am writing to provide some examples of alternative social networking sites which are reviewed as suitable for children under 13 years of age and are recommended by parent review sites. These sites may provide a more secure environment for younger children, although with all online activity, we would recommend that parents review these sites for themselves before allowing their children to sign up. As with all social networking sites, we recommend creating a safe profile, and keeping all personal information private and safe.

The alternative sites for children under 13 years are:

www.yoursphere.com

www.Everloop.com

www.gianthello.com

Should you require further information and advice about social networking sites, you may wish to consult a popular e-safety site for parents: www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

I will be more than happy to provide you with further information and advice regarding social networking and e-safety, please contact the School Office in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Johnston
Assistant Headteacher



