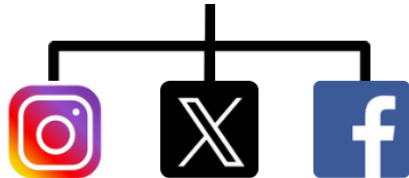


Kids : 10 tips to protect your privacy on social networks

Tip 1 : Find out about social networks beforehand

Do you want to communicate with your friends/family? Do you want to view and share your photos?

Each social network is different and offers different features. Before you sign up, check with your friends and family to find out which one is right for you.



Tip 2 : Read the terms of use and privacy settings

It's true that terms of use are often long and boring, but it's important to read them to understand what social networks do with your data. You'll learn, for example, whether the photos you share become the property of these social networks once they've been posted.

The security settings allow you to protect your privacy. For example, you can choose who can see your list of friends/your photos... You can also create groups of recipients, prevent certain people from commenting on your posts, set your profile to private... In short, you can keep control over what you publish.

Tip 3 : Use a strong password and keep it secret

When you sign up, you'll be asked for a password. Always use a password that's not easy to guess, using upper and lower case letters, numbers and special characters (&, @, !, #, ...). Avoid using a word from the dictionary, and choose a phrase that's easy to remember.

A password is personal: no one else should know it, not even a friend. Avoid writing it on a post-it note. Someone else might see it.



Tip 4 : Think before you fill in your profile details

When you create your profile, the social network will ask you lots of questions. You don't need to answer them all. So choose carefully the information you want to share with everyone.

Do you want to put your photo up? Do you want to use your real name or do you prefer a pseudonym? Does everyone need to see your phone number? A lot of this information can only be shared with your friends via private messages.



Tip 5 : Don't add just anyone as a friend

Do you really know the person who sent you a friend request? Do you really want this person to be able to see all your photos, messages, etc.? It's very important to only add people you know and trust as friends. And when someone is no longer your friend, don't hesitate to remove them from your list.

Tip 6 : Don't write nonsense

Everything you write on the net, every photo you post, can remain on social networks even years later. Even if you decide to delete them, someone may already have had time to copy and share them. So be careful not to write things you might regret later.



Tip 7 : Ensure your privacy and respect that of others

Keep an eye on what your friends write about you and the photos they post of you. If you don't want them to share your information, ask them to delete it. Your friends should also respect your privacy.

The reverse is also true. Never post any information, photo or video about them without first asking them if you can do so.

Tip 8 : Develop your critical thinking skills

Just because it's written on social networks doesn't mean it's true. A lot of false information circulates on the net, so it's important to always check the veracity of the information published.

In the same way, be careful about what you publish. Are you sure it's true? Is this photo embarrassing? Is it necessary to share this information with everyone? Saying that you're on holiday abroad, for example, could give ill-intentioned people the idea of coming and robbing you.



Tip 9 : Log off when you stop using a computer

Do you sometimes use a computer or phone that isn't yours to connect to your social networks? If so, always remember to log out afterwards. If you don't, the owner of the computer or phone could then see your profile and access all your information.

Tip 10 : Talk to your parents or someone you trust

If you have any doubts, problems (such as harassment) or in case of inappropriate content, talk to someone. Together, we're stronger!