



Bishop Alexander L.E.A.D. Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

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Autumn 2 – Online safety newsletter

Introduction

Autumn 2's newsletter, will be focussing on 'friends' in the online world.

What is an online friend?

Social media is heavily reliant on you having friends or followers. Often, you associate the term 'friend' as being someone you have built a relationship with, for a period of time. Online friends do not need to go through the 'initiation' of gaining that trust. An example is Facebook, you can add whoever you like (providing their profile is not private) and it only takes one click to add them as your 'friend' otherwise known as 'accepting a friend request'. In some cases, you may have followers (on apps like Twitter and TikTok), who you don't directly chat to and these follow your profile to see what you are posting ... which is very similar to a friend on Facebook. Recently, it has become apparent that having more friends or followers, makes you appear to be more successful. Although, this is not true and people can buy followers or have fake accounts to increase their follower count.

What can I do?

As a parent, you can do many things to help: being their friend, including privacy controls and talk to your child.

Being their friend online can work both ways, this not only allows you to see who they are friends with and what they post. It also allows you to identify 'friends' on their account, who may not be genuine. Privacy controls allow you to control what your child's profile shows, for example information like their name and age. Also, having the discussion with your child, that even though they are online they must still behave in the same manner that they would in their home and what they post or comment on others profiles can be seen by many others. As mentioned in the previous paragraph, it is also important to discuss how you make friends in real life and the value of a real friendship, this can lead to children making wiser decisions when adding others online.

In summary, it is important to raise the awareness to your children about 'friends online' because this may impact their lives as they grow up. Learning coping mechanisms and the reasons why, can help to give your child the tools they need to combat these areas when they are older.

Credit: <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/wake-up-wednesday/>

Useful websites

<https://www.childnet.com/>

<http://www.safetynetkids.org.uk>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://ee.co.uk/our-company/corporate-responsibility/keeping-children-safe-online>

Dates

Autumn 1 – Online gaming and loot boxes

Autumn 2 – Online friends

Tuesday 5th February 2019 - E-Safety day