



Talking to your children about their digital footprint

It's easy to pretend to be a better version of you on the internet - with just a little Photoshop and a funny one-liner; we can all be better-looking and funnier.

And if you're a young person, that's probably particularly attractive, But hidden behind the safety of a keyboard or keypad, it's easy for children to miss the warning signs that people may be invading their personal space or using their personal information against them.

- **Explain to your child that what goes online stays online.**
- **Ask them what they'd do if someone was standing too close to them, or if strangers were asking nosy questions. Then ask them what they think is the online equivalent.**
- **Get them to type their name into a search engine - they may be surprised by what comes up.**
- **Encourage them to ask permission before tagging photos or videos of friends and family.**
- **Explain that they could be breaking the law if they make comments about someone online (it could be considered as bullying or hate incident related).**
- **Remind them of the value of friendship: to be a friend, other people need to be decent, kind and supportive.**
- **Talk about the consequences of posting rude images online.**