



**WHAT ARE THE RISKS INVOLVED IN SOCIAL NETWORKING?  
(LAP TOPS, HOME COMPUTERS, I PADS, GAMING, PHONES, ANY DEVICE  
YOU CAN ACCESS THE INTERNET THROUGH)**

- Harassment or online bullying (“cyber bullying”) on the part of your young person or others’
  - posting personal/sensitive information about themselves that:
    - a) Could be used to embarrass or manipulate them;
    - b) Could be used to track there where about’s making them a target for sexual predators (Child Sexual Exploitation).
    - c) Could be used by criminals to steal their identity or property.
- Damage to reputation or future prospects because of young people’s own behaviour or that of their peers – unkind or angry posts, compromising photos or videos, or group conflict depicted in text and imagery.
- Spending too much time online, losing a sense of balance in their activities, which is why parents need to be engaged and monitoring internet use.
- Exposure to inappropriate content (in appropriate pop ups, adverts, age restricted sites, pornography).
- Potential for inappropriate contact with stranger’s inappropriate adults, inappropriate peers.  
(Parents / carers need to ensure that social networking does not lead to offline contact unapproved by them).

As a parent /carer you are responsible for your young person, if they use certain applications make sure they are age appropriate, also YOU use the application it is the best way to educate your self and stay in the KNOW.  
Get your young person to help you with the applications if you find them difficult.

