



**D**o YOU feel safe online? Do you think you're taking the necessary precautions?

Us teenagers, being teenagers and all, are likely to use some form of social networking site or chatroom e.g. Facebook, MSN, Myspace, Bebo. However, whilst meeting people over the internet can be an exciting experience, there are downsides. Sure, it's an easy way to make new friends from the comfort of your own home, but are your new 'friends' really who they say they are?

Nowadays the problem of online predators is increasing. This doesn't mean that you should not use chat-rooms or similar ways of making friends on the internet. As long as you follow these guidelines, you can ensure that you can stay safe whilst talking to new people...

Protect your privacy – don't post personal information on your profile such as where you live, your birthday or your mobile number. Use a strong password for your profiles, in other words, make sure it's a combination of letters and numbers, not your girlfriend's dog's name! Set your profile to private. If you have any doubts about someone, don't accept anything from them such as a friend request or a file they're trying to send you. Never give your personal details to someone you have never met before in person.

You never know if someone you've met online is who they say they are, so if you're going to meet up with someone you've met online, tell someone where you're going and when you'll be back, take someone with you, and meet in a public place.

BEBO

ONLINE

STAY SAFE



For more advice check out these websites:  
[www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)  
[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)  
[www.childnetint.org/sorted](http://www.childnetint.org/sorted)  
[www.chatdanger.com](http://www.chatdanger.com)

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MSN

FACEBOOK