



SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDANCE FOR FOSTER CARERS

1. Make yourself difficult to find

People will find you on social media by your name and profile picture. Some carers use a nickname, or their first and middle names but not their last name. Using a profile picture that doesn't easily identify you is also a good idea.

2. Ensure your profile is private

All social networking apps have some privacy options within the settings menu. Make sure that your accounts are only visible to those people you have accepted as friends/followers, and are not visible to the public. View our guide to Facebook privacy settings on I-SPACE.

3. Friends & Followers

By setting your accounts to 'private' you will be able to choose who becomes a 'friend' or 'follower' and see your private posts. You can add current or former foster children as 'friends' or 'followers', but it is good practice to get the agreement of the Local Authority first. Please remember that most social networking sites require the young person to be over 13 to join. You should not add other foster children, foster children's parents or social workers as 'friends' or 'followers'.



Accessing your profile settings on Facebook

1. Login into Facebook
2. Click the downward arrow at the top right corner
3. Click 'Settings'

4. Think before you post and share

Beware of 'fake news' on social networking sites, and posts from pages/groups that spread hate. Before sharing posts, we would advise you to check where they came from to protect your online reputation.

5. Do not share confidential information about foster children

You are advised against making any reference online to a fostered child that could identify them, including names and photographs. Photographs are particularly insecure online, even within a private account and it is important to avoid any breach of the young person's privacy.

Online identification could also pose a safeguarding risk for some young people.

SPREAD THE WORD ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media is a great way to share the positive impact you're making to children's lives everyday, as well as the rewards fostering has to offer.

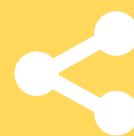
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