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CYBER SAFETY TIPS

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ONLINE SECURITY: DON'TS

Don't assume everyone you meet online is who they say they are. Anyone can create a user profile pretending to be anyone else.

Don't post information that could be used to find you offline – people will piece together information about you over time.

Don't reply to messages that harass you or make you feel uncomfortable! Cyberbullies want you to be worried and upset. Don't give them that satisfaction, remain in control.

Don't share your password with anyone

Don't accept friend requests from strangers or meet online people, in person. The only way someone can physically harm you is if you're both in the same location. Be 100% safe – don't meet them in person.

Don't be a bystander! If your friend is being a cyberbully & you stay quiet- you are guilty too.

Avoid posting that you are going on vacation, or posting pictures while on vacation... until you are back home.

Learn about privacy settings (including geolocation services), and review them often.

HANDLING A CYBER BULLY

Tell a trusted adult (parents, counselor, etc.).

Block abusers and bullies

Save the offensive posts = evidence!

They are not invisible or anonymous online. Illegal activity can be tracked & traced via their IP address.

Report them using the site's Report Button.



TIPS

THINK BEFORE YOU POST

Deleting a post does not mean it is gone forever!

All social media sites have a database where information is stored permanently. Sharing provocative photos or intimate details online, even in private emails, can cause you problems later on. Don't post anything you wouldn't want your parents, teachers, future college reps or employers to see.

BE SMART WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE

All tips apply to phones & computers, with some extra precautions. Be careful who you give your number to, how you use GPS & other tech that can pinpoint your location. Secure your phone with a PIN, password, fingerprint or facial recognition. Know how to log on the iCloud or Android Find my Device so you can remotely locate, ring or erase a lost/missing phone.

DON'T BE FOOLED

People typically post happy photos/stories online.

They don't usually share their boring or sad moments or unflattering photos. Don't assume they have better lives, based on what they post.

Remember: Be authentic. The real you is better than anything you might pretend to be.