



## What is Personal Information?

When we teach your child about protecting their Personal information online, we mean anything that might help to identify them including name, address, date of birth, school, telephone number and email address. The online world is not a private space and children should ask permission before sharing personal information.

## What do I need to know?

Personal information that we reveal in real life is unlikely to be shared with a large number of people, but information that is shared, without care, online can be accessed by a huge number, increasing the potential risks of unwanted contact. Obviously, some people know basic personal information about us including our name, age and address. People we know very well might also know our nick names, pets' names, school, email address, telephone number, hobbies and opinions. Our doctor or teacher might know other more sensitive information about our physical or mental health. There are circumstances where it is helpful to share personal information, but children should be careful to protect their personal information online. Knowing even the most basic of personal information makes it easier for people to find and connect with each other online.

## Keeping Private

People online can piece together small details to help them form a bigger picture about someone's habits, location and daily routines

## What to talk about with your child

- ★ **Discuss** their online activities and sit alongside and explore them together.
- ★ **Agree** safe and age appropriate websites, apps and games that don't require personal information
- ★ **Check** that they understand what personal information is, and ask them to seek your permission before sharing it online.
- ★ **Avoid** sharing their personal information online yourself.
- ★ **Avoid** tagging your child in photos online and explain why they and their friends should not tag each other or share images showing their school uniform.
- ★ **Switch off location** sharing in photo settings if your child has a phone, to stop the phone creating a Geo Tag on the picture.
- ★ **Explain** that they should never reply to unknown texts or calls.
- ★ **Avoid** online quizzes which are often designed to gather people's information.
- ★ **Be Positive about the internet.** Reassure them that they can come to you if something feels wrong or if they have shared something by mistake.