



Personal Information

Our personal information is valuable to both commercial organisations who want to advertise their goods or services as well as to fraudsters who engage in online fraud and identity theft. Illegal tactics often involve obtaining someone's personal details from social media or email accounts and using them to take over an account or apply for a credit card in someone else's name. Criminals also commit fraud by using personal information to add to the apparent authenticity of a scam.

Personal Information:

Name, address, school, email address, age, employer – all these are valuable to fraudsters who can use them for identity fraud and other scams.

In the UK more than £190,000 is lost to online fraud every day.

What do I need to know?

You can protect yourself against online fraud by maintaining up to date anti-virus software, setting strong and separate passwords for different accounts, using 2-factor authentication, reducing the amount of personal information revealed publicly and selecting high privacy settings. It is also advisable to implement app and software updates as soon as they are available. As online scams become more sophisticated it can be difficult to spot but be particularly wary of unsolicited requests for personal or financial information. Never give this information via links in texts or emails – always go to the website and check it is genuine before entering any information.

What to talk about with your child:

- ★ **Ask** them what they know about the types of information that should be kept private and how to protect it. Check that they understand why. Discuss and set boundaries about what you are happy for them to share online and with whom.
- ★ **Remind** them that personal information can be found on profile pages, email addresses, posts and comments that people make online. (Check that your own posts do not reveal personal details about your child).
- ★ **Show** them how to secure the privacy settings on their apps and devices.
- ★ **Talk** about how sometimes people try to trick us into revealing our personal information and it can be hard to know when requests are genuine.
- ★ **Encourage** them not to sign up to free games and to ask your permission before creating any online accounts or updating or sharing any personal information online.
- ★ **Reassure** them you will always be there to help if they are worried that their personal information has been discovered or shared.