Modern Communication

Facebook

What is it?

Facebook is a social networking site that connects people with friends and others who work, study and live around them. People use Facebook to keep up with friends, upload photos and share links and videos.

How does it work?

To explore Facebook, you must create a free account on the site. Facebook’s terms of use state that members must be at least 13 years old. Facebook requires new members to provide a valid e-mail address before completing registration. Once you’ve created an account and answered a few questions Facebook will generate a profile for you.

Advantages

Facebook gives you the opportunity to decide what you want to share, what you don’t want to share, and what you want to share with selected friends. Users can create groups and discussion topics. From a teenager’s perspective, not using Facebook is a ‘social liability’.

Disadvantages

The key is to not post any identifiable information on your profile and to be careful talking to people you don’t know.

Blogging

What is it?

A blog is a website, usually maintained by an individual, with regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events, or other material such as graphics or video. Entries are commonly displayed in reverse-chronological order.

How does it work?

To blog you will need an internet connection, a profile on a blogging site and, something interesting to blog.

Advantages

With the blog function you can keep and make public a personal diary or blog. As soon as you have written the first entry, your blog will be visible in your profile.

Blogging provides freedom of speech. You can share knowledge with other people. You can also make friends online and it can be used as a diary.

Disadvantages

You will need to keep it constantly updated otherwise you will lose potential readers. It is very easy to start but difficult to maintain.

Chat rooms

What is it?

The term chat room, or chatroom, is primarily used by mass media to describe any form of synchronous conferencing, occasionally even asynchronous conferencing. The term can thus mean any technology ranging from real-time online chat over instant messaging and online forums to fully immersive graphical social environments.

How does it work?

To make use of a chat room you must have an internet connection and you must be prepared to fill out your details.

Advantages

When a chat room is well monitored, you can meet people from around the world who share your interests in a safe environment.

Disadvantages

The participants need to schedule to meet at a particular time. As with any other meeting, this may be inconvenient, and it may take much administration to achieve this with busy people.

It is rumoured that some people with a taste for sexual abuse of children have used chat rooms to make contact with child victims.