



E-safety

I recently saw an advert for a smartphone with the strapline 'putting the camera first'. Now call me old fashioned, but surely making calls should come first?

Having an all-in-one device which incorporates a camera has changed the way we use mobile phones in our everyday lives. Today taking photos and sharing them through a social media network is something most teenagers do daily. The latest trend is to take one of yourself, otherwise known as a 'selfie'.

This spontaneous way of taking photos seems like harmless fun – and indeed in its purest form it is however it doesn't take much for it to go wrong. It starts with someone posting a selfie online and, invited or not, comments could be made which could potentially lead to cyber bullying.

Sending or requesting inappropriate selfie images, or sexting, could also lead to distress, bullying, blackmail or indeed criminal prosecution. It is important that young girls understand the dangers of posting such images online. Once they post a picture it could be on the web forever.

We must therefore ensure that young people become good digital citizens and use the technology responsibly.

Tips for safe use:

1. Don't post anything you wouldn't want your parents or carers to see.
2. Only share photos with your close friends.
3. Make sure your privacy settings are set to friends only.

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