**Beat the creeps: 5 tips for safe chat**

Remember – it’s easy to lie online, so unless you’ve met someone face to face, you could be talking to anyone.

1. **How do I look?**

We’ve been told by abusers that they look for young people who use a sexy username, post sexy pictures or talk about sex online. Think about how your online profile makes you appear to others.

1. **Keep your private stuff private.**

Don’t share personal information like your phone number, address or school with someone you’ve only met online. If you’re not sure about whether to share information with someone, ask yourself, what do they need it for?

1. **Are they really a 'friend of a friend'?**

Are they who they say they are? It’s easy for someone to post fake photos, stream a fake video over webcam, or learn about you and your friends from information online. If they’re a ‘friend of a friend’, ask your friend if they’ve met them in the real world.

1. **Just between us?**

Anything you share with a stranger online you’ve lost control of. If you send naked pictures of yourself or do embarrassing things on webcam, they could do share it anywhere, with anyone, even your family. Remember, it’s illegal to take or share ‘indecent’ images of anyone under 18, even if you’re the person in the pictures.

1. **Checking in and meeting up.**

Lots of popular social networks and apps enable you to share your location or chat to people in your area. It is never a good idea to share your location or meet up with someone you’ve only met online. But if you do decide to meet up, stay safe by meeting in a public place and taking a trusted adult with you.