

# The Detective Webwise Advice Column

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## The Detective's safety hints and notes:

On the Internet it is easy to pretend to be someone you are not. In this week's column I am going to try and help students understand how to keep safe online and how to avoid people tricking students online. These are my preparation notes -

- In real life if a complete stranger walked up to you in town and asked to be your friend you would be cautious. When an invisible stranger on the Internet begins to chat with you, you should be twice as cautious and should remember the 'stranger danger' messages you learned in school.
- In real life your parents know all your real friends. They are even friends with some of your friend's parents. It would be wise to introduce your Internet friends to your parents.
- In real life you know your friend's family, their parents, their brothers and sisters and they will know yours. On the Internet they may claim to have a family but can you prove that they really exist?
- A real friend will know where you live, will most likely have been to visit/play in your house. You would not give out your address and personal details to a complete stranger on the street. You should not give out your address and personal details on the Internet.
- In real life we will know someone who knows the new person, often a true friend will introduce us to the new person - on the Internet it is easy to pretend to be a 'friend of a friend' but are they who they say they are?
- In real life we can see and hear other people and decide if we would like to become their friend- we can not do this on the Internet.
- It is WebWise to chat online with true, real life friends only.

