Facebook is a place where you can connect and share openly. When you're on Facebook, you're surrounded by your freinds and family. Being on Facebook is like being part of a caring community. The Facebook community is one of the best defences against abusive behaviour, spam, and other forms of unwanted contact. People use their real names on facebook and that connects online actions to true identities.

It must be stated that poeple should treat treat others the way they want to be equally treated, both online and offline. If you see something that is inappropriate or makes you uncomfortable, speak up and let Facebook know. They take reports from the community very seriously, and work hard to respond.

**Facebook Appeal**

There is no denying that Facebook and other social networking sites have a very luring appeal. You can sit in the comforts of your own home and suddenly have a thriving socail life. You can look up friends, make new ones, build business relationships and create a profile for yourself that highlights only your talents and adventures while conveniently leaving out all your flaws and troubles. It is easy to see why Facebook has acquired over 200 million users worldwide in just over five years.

**Safety Advisory Board**

Facebook is also part of a larger online safety community. They work with a diverse set of experts and organisation devoted to online safety in order to bring the best safety resources to Facebook. That’s why they created a Safety Advisory Board that advises them on safety issues. The members of that board are leading Internet safety organisations [Childnet International](http://www.childnet-int.org/), [Connect Safely](http://www.connectsafely.org/), [The Family Online Safety Institute](http://fosi.org/), [The National Networks to End Domestic Violence](http://www.nnedv.org/) and [Wired Safety](http://www.wiredsafety.org/).

**Social Reporting**

A feature, [social reporting](https://www.facebook.com/note.php?note_id=196124227075034&__adt=3&__att=iframe), lets people report ofensive material to Facebook at the same time as they alert someone in their community (like a friend, parent or teacher) who may help them address the issue more directly. Features like this will help people get to the roots of the problem quickly.

**Points to remember when using Facebook:**

* Understand facebook's security settings and use them.
* Be sure the people you friend are ones that you know and trust.
* Using Facebook applications can give broad permission for whoever developed that application to access your data ... and your friends' data.
* You have to protect yourself and think through every post that you put online. The golden rule, is to think about whether you want your mother, your boss (and any potential future bosses) and your significant other to read what you're about to write. Avoid listing your birth date, home adress, children's names, phone numbers and social security numbers, if in doubt - don't post it.
* Report people and content that violate the Facebook terms.

**Friend Requests**

Do not accept all Friend Requests. Of course the purpose of Facebook is to socially connect with people you know. However, not every Friend Request is legitimate. There have been reported instances of private investigators, police officers, sex offenders and the like creating fake accounts to gain access to you online. If you do not know the person, then do not add them to your accepted friends. Again, as soon as they gain access, they will be searching your personal information, your postings, and viewing all of your photos. Keep your list of accepted friends and family close as you would in the non-digital world.

**What is Facebook?**

Facebook is a popular free social networking website that allows registered users to create profiles, upload fotos and video, send messages and keep in touch with friends, family and colleagues.