

Social Networking—Pros and Cons

Social networking is the use of applications or software to communicate or form communities online. Examples of social networking tools include the following:

- Facebook
- Twitter
- LinkedIn
- Instagram
- Snapchat
- YouTube

ALL of these are designed for people over the age of 13 and should, even then, be considered carefully for teens. This age limit has more to do with privacy legislation in the USA than it has to do with suitable fit for age.

Social networking sites allow users to post comments, images, videos, and links. They require an online profile that may require personal information.

Pros	محتويات	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's free—the applications and the chat (in comparison to phone SMS expenses or telephone calls). Social networking can be used as a learning tool to teach children how to interact appropriately online in a social setting. Children enjoy it (although, of course, this is not guaranteed, and it can lead to problems). Can create a sense of belonging and connection—family, friends, people with similar interests (e.g., online games) Can be used to express creative or individual thoughts/products (such as images they create to express their feelings or thoughts or videos that amuse them) If managed properly, can help our children feel accepted If used properly, can instil positive mindsets relating to appropriate communication, what is and isn't acceptable, and the limitations of technology regarding privacy and control Enables us to highlight to them that we need to be part of their online world 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adds another layer (time) for parents/carers to consider and monitor/control. Gives others (mostly strangers) access to your child and their information 24 hours a day. Gives your child a platform to make poor and impulsive choices instantly without the opportunity to think. Creates a permanent record of what they say and do in a public place to be seen by others. Can encourage them to waste time May become obsessed with affirmation and what others think May be exposed to inappropriate content or information Will be exposed to older users that find teenagers an attractive target Connects your child with other people that may cause issues for your child <p>Cyberbullying brings school issues into your home. The bullying no longer stops at the school gate. Indeed, some children are nastier online than in the school yard.</p> <p>Even if your child isn't the one being bullied, they may be part of the chat and see it happening.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtually all sites have no monitoring, moderation, or, more importantly, identity verification. (You can't be confident the person is who they represent themselves to