

Under 13's On Facebook

It is known that under 13's use Facebook and this is an on-going problem because the environment is not suitable for younger pupils. Continuing to support and educate young people is critical, but we should bear in mind the legalities of under 13's on Facebook.

Any under 13 signing up to Facebook does so with a falsified date of birth, which is, technically, fraud, though law enforcement would never be used to deal with this problem.

Facebook has to comply with COPPA (Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998). This means Facebook may not hold any details of young people under the age of 13 and they may not advertise to this group either. This legal restriction applies to Facebook regardless of where the child is signing up from (America or the rest of the world).

Conclusion: Facebook is for over 13's only.

13 to 18 year olds are treated as minors and have additional privacy aspects enforced. For further reading the UK safer Internet Centre has produced a useful guide to Facebook privacy settings and staying safe online which can be found here. <http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>