

## The Facts

- You cannot photograph anyone without their knowledge or permission. This also applies to audio recordings.
- **There can be very serious consequences for doing so.**
- Once you post anything online, you lose control of it forever, but you may still be held accountable for posting it in the first place.
- **If we all took a responsible attitude to each other, the internet becomes a better, safer and more enjoyable place.**
- Employers, Universities and colleges sometimes “Google” potential employees or students.
- **Even if you delete an image from your phone or website, there is usually a backup copy somewhere.**
- Some schools, colleges and Universities have it written into their codes of conduct that students must not do anything that could bring the institution into disrepute.
- **Use your camera and recording facilities for what they are intended for.**
- Some lecturers are quite happy for their lectures to be recorded, others are not. You must respect their decisions.

## Further information

You may find these sites useful.

### The UK Council for Child Internet Safety. (UKCCIS)

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/ukccis/>

### Microsoft Windows Parental Controls

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-GB/windows-vista/Kids-online-A-parents-guide-to-monitoring-computer-use>

### The Child Exploitation and Online Protection website (CEOP)

<http://www.ceop.gov.uk/>

### The Byron Report (An investigation into online safety for children and young people by Dr Tanya Byron)

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/byonreview/>

### Parent's centre ( A government resource for parents who want to know more about e-safety.)

<http://www.parentscentre.gov.uk/usingcomputersandtheinternet/>

# Chain letters and pyramid schemes?

And how to deal with them.

### **Can I use my mobile phone to record lessons, or lectures?!**

You should always check with the teacher or lecturer first as a matter of courtesy. Under no circumstances should you record anyone covertly.

### **What about recording my friends?**

You need to take care not only about what you record, but also where you record it. It is an offence to make any video of another person in circumstances where enhanced privacy might be expected. Toilets, changing rooms and private rooms comes under this category. Everyone likes a laugh, but remember, there may be repercussions if you break this rule.

### **Some of my friends have video'd me and are threatening to upload it to Facebook or YouTube. The problem is, it would be very embarrassing if my parents saw it.**

#### **What can I do?**

Your friends should know that uploading any material that could cause you embarrassment may be a criminal offence. It may also break the terms and conditions of use of the site they upload it to. The Telecommunications Act, and the Obscene Publications Act makes it an offence to upload any material that might cause offence to others, or that is sexually explicit. If you are under the age of 17, they may be committing other offences too. It is never ok to publish material that might embarrass someone. It may even be possible for that person to make a complaint to the Police.

### **There are lots of small cameras around, and I like being a "James Bond" spy.**

Leave the spying to MI5! There is a very thin line between having some fun with technology and invading people's privacy. News International has found this out to their cost with the loss of a national newspaper and the likelihood that further criminal charges will follow. People have a right to privacy. If you are spying on them you are breaching this right. You may also like to ask yourself, "Would you like it?"

### **So what CAN I use my mobile camera and video for?**

You can use it for any reasonable purpose. Taking photos of people with their knowledge and permission, taking videos of them, again with their knowledge and permission. However, if they say they do not want it uploaded to a website, you have to respect their wishes. Having a small mobile camera does not give you the right to invade other people's privacy.

### **Is it really that big a deal?**

Absolutely. In fact, the right to privacy is enshrined in Law under the Human Rights Act. People have the right to privacy. Full stop.

### **What if I find video or photographs of myself on a website that I didn't know were there?**

This depends on a number of factors. If the images are embarrassing to you, you can request the website to remove the images.

For example, if someone has posted an embarrassing image of you on their Facebook page, you should first of all ask them to remove it. If they don't, you can request Facebook to do so, giving them the URL (web address) of the page concerned and stating your reasons. You may also request Facebook to remind the site owner of their duties when posting material. The problem is that once an image is posted, there is no way of knowing if someone has copied it or posted it on another site. That is why everyone owes each other a duty of care with regard to what they post online.

### **So are you saying that once an image is posted online, you lose control of it?**

Yes, that is exactly the case. Unfortunately, you do not lose the responsibility for posting it in the first place. You are responsible for what you do. Let's say you post a really embarrassing photo of someone on your Facebook account. They object and you remove it. However, they find the image on another site, perhaps one that is not very nice at all. They can still hold you accountable for posting that image in the first place. The golden rule is to put yourself in that person's place. If you would not like it yourself, don't do it to others.

### **Are people really making claims against each other for this kind of thing?**

Not only are they doing that, but they are also making complaints to official bodies, such as the Police, Ofcom and schools and colleges.