

News

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Add panic buttons to keep kids safe on the net

By ROBIN PERRIE

Published: 10th March 2010



THE mother of murdered Ashleigh Hall yesterday begged Facebook to install a panic button to protect kids against online predators.

Andrea Hall wants the networking site to include the link to the Child Exploitation Online Protection centre. It allows users to easily report perverts and cyber bullies.

But Facebook — where sex beast Peter Chapman groomed Ashleigh, 17 — rejected the mum's plea.

Andrea, 39, told The Sun: "Ashleigh's death shows better controls need to be brought in straight away."

"Anything that can be done should be done to stop these monsters. Perhaps you will never stop people creating false profiles but every little helps and the button would act as a deterrent."

Ceop boss Jim Gamble said the centre had 267 complaints about Facebook last year, 43 per cent about grooming.

But he said only "one or two" came from Facebook itself. The majority were from people who had to go to other sites with Ceop's panic button. He added: "That's just not good enough."

Facebook stood by its own system for reporting abuse.

It said: "We have reporting buttons on every page and work closely with police in the UK and around the world."



Plea ... Andrea Hall yesterday
ITV

The risks

THE Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre has six ways to help stay safe:

1. It's never good to meet up with someone you first met online. If you do, always take an adult with you.
2. Think about whether you're giving someone clues to finding you before you write stuff on your profile. And only upload photos you'd be happy to show your mum or a future employer.
3. Don't accept anyone on to your social networking buddy list that you don't know in the real world.
4. Set your privacy settings to "private" so only people you accept as friends can view your profile.
5. Remember that it's easy to lie online and people can pretend to be different.
6. If anything makes you feel uncomfortable, tell a trusted adult or make a report at www.ceop.police.uk

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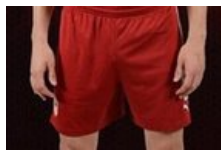
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oldfarmer

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I would agree that a panic button has its uses, but parental supervision is paramount to all of this. I recently discovered that my 11 year old had opened a facebook account behind my back (she didn't realise I monitored her use) and lead to us having a conversation that I would rather not have had with one so young, but I had to spell out to her the dangers and unsavoury people that lurk in cyberspace.

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says Andy Coulson

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I've had trouble finding the report buttons when on these pages, I'm not thick, sometimes they've been placed in ridiculous places. Facebook should install the button, they are being extremely selfish.

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cynic57

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I sympathise with this mother, but all the legislation in the world is not going to stop this sort of thing happening again.

People will continue to take chances with their lives either through boredom, loneliness etc.

Educating them about the dangers out there is what's needed.

Like



kedge75

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I have to agree with Bermuda. i have 4 boys 3 of which use the internet, my eldest being 15, and i have ALL their passwords and keep a regular check on what they are doing. I believe the parents have to share some of the blame... they would not let their children talk to any old stranger on the street so why are they letting them in their own home. I feel very sorry for this obviously loving mother but we know the risks and only WE, THE PARENTS, can do something about them

Like



bermuda

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A panic or reporting button is good but only if the person concerned realises that the person they are talking too is a threat. Theres only one way to keep our children safe online and thats for parents to read whats going on and in most families thats not going to happen and yes it is an ivasion of our kids privacy however better that than they land up dead. The other way is and not being a computer wizz i dont know if its possible but for parents to be sent a one off password that will over ride any passwords that their kids use for the main sites they use and in our case its msn and f/b both of which are excellent sites if not abused by certain bad people out there.

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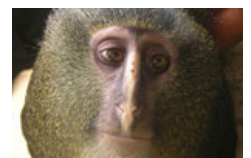
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