

Facebook - what you need to know

Unison has seen a sharp rise in the number of safeguarding cases in Bolton Children's services, mainly within schools. These have led to disciplinary action and in some cases dismissal. UNISON has put together some safety tips, please use them, it could save your job.

When you join facebook, ensure you 'lock' your page so only people YOU choose can view your pages, photo's etc.

DO NOT under any circumstances 'make friends' with any child within your school or work base.

Do not talk about your work base, in your status. Your head teacher or manager is your employer and you can be disciplined for writing anything derogatory about them or your workplace.

It isn't wise to be commenting about your personal life activities when you are on sick leave.

MAKE SURE YOU FAMILIARISE YOURSELF WITH YOUR SCHOOL OR AUTHORITIES 'I.T POLICY' AND 'FACEBOOK POLICY'

These are now safeguarding issues. Ignorance could lose you your job and is not a defence.

If you require further information contact your local rep or the Assistant Branch Secretary - Andrea Egan who is the lead branch officer for safeguarding issues.

Not a member of UNISON?

If you work with vulnerable children or adults you are at daily risk of a complaint being made against you which may lead to a safeguarding issue. UNISON can provide advice and assistance in such circumstances, up to and including legal representation – but only if you have been a member for 4 weeks.

[Download an application](#). e-mail admin@unisonbolton.org