

## Security Q&A

Most other networking sites (that are used by our children) tend to think of security after the fact. Our company was **founded by parents** - hence network security was a key design goal. We have used the schools our children attend as a connection point and a security screening mechanism. Learn more about our **mission** and **guiding principle**.

We have outlined steps we have taken to create a secure online environment in the Q&A below:

**Invitation only network --what does this mean? I requested an invitation via the home page and got invited from "VIP invitation".**

\* This means that no user can create an account unless they are invited to join the network – either from an existing member or the SPN administrator. There is no automated invitation process, when someone requests an invite through our home page. Users are "manually" invited by our Administrator.

\* After a user signs-up using the "VIP invitation", SPN will validate the user. If there is discrepancy in the sign-up information, we will *block* the user. Also, if the user chooses to not provide school profile information after sign-up, access to directory and other school features is *blocked*.

\* Please note that very few users sign-up through our home page. Most users who join our network are invited by existing members. All network members can invite others to join after they sign-up.

**What security features do you have?**

\* The security screen we perform for users signing up through our home page is only the first filter. We can also set-up a specific **security code** for your school (more information provided below). This feature helps control who can join your school group.

\* An additional security layer is provided by you. You can monitor members because each network user is able to *flag violators* in the network. When a user

registers and provides school profile information, they are **automatically** connected to other parents, teachers and administrators from their district/city, school, grade and classroom. Hence, each user is connected to a group where there is a high likelihood that others will know them, and this ensures that users cannot remain "anonymous". This automated grouping feature coupled with the ability to flag other users, enables network users to "self-monitor" members in their school, grade, class groups.

### [What is a school security code?](#)

As we mentioned above, this is another security screen layer ([learn more](#)). This feature allows access only to those who **get the code**, from a person from your school who has volunteered to be the code administrator (and who has the ability to validate that only parents from your school get the code).

We recommend that you get someone to be a code administrator for your school (school staff member, volunteer/PTA parent etc.). Once your school has a code, then school users will feel more comfortable about updating their profiles with information such as hobbies, interests, photos and more (which will provide your school with a richer directory). By default, your school's users detailed profiles, and content posted by them, will only be visible to others from the same school.

### [Your site encourages people to post photos, interests and sport team or group affiliations. Can I control who views this information ?](#)

Absolutely. Users are welcome to post photos, interests etc - but these are all **optional**. You do not have to provide this information and if you do, you can control who sees this, i.e to be viewed only by school, grade, class members, or for even more security, only by those you accept as family friends.

### [Why do you request children's initials on the school profile form ?](#)

Children's initials are requested in order to label the columns used in directory

filters. Please see the picture in our [tour](#) - you can see "cff" under Group Filters in the second slide. This column would be labeled by your child's initials for **your** account. Then you would be able to sort through the multiple directory levels by clicking on the buttons below. Your child's name/initials **are not listed** in any of the directories. As described above, you have complete control over who can view your detailed profile.

We hope that you will find our secure online parents' network useful in your daily lives. Enjoy!

**P.S.:** Two links that you may find useful (1) [List of schools](#) with registered users (2) [Success Story](#) screenshots showing how the site is used at one of these schools