

## **Instant Messenger**

Instant Messenger (IM) is a great way of chatting with friends and family, and it is private so only the people involved can see what is being said.

When the message I sent, it appears on the screen almost immediately, so it is like having a real conversation! In IM, you can keep track of your friends using a contact list. This list shows when they are online the same time as you, so you can see who you can talk to. You can even talk to lots of friends at the same time! You can use webcams when you are logged onto IM and this can be great fun as it means you can wave at your friends while you are talking to them! Even if they are in another country.

If you have your own profile on IM. It's not a good idea to include lots of information about yourself, like your hobbies, favourite band, your address and school.

It is also not a good idea to have a picture of yourself on your profile- you can use one of the pictures that are on IM already, or a picture of a pet or your favourite pop group. This is because if you have someone on your contact list who you don't know in the real world, they will be able to have access to your profile and see what you look like.

Lots of people use webcams when they use IM- this can be a great way of seeing all your friends and family when you are talking to them. But remember some people you meet online may not be who they say they are.

Webcam images can be recorded and then copied and shared with other people, so the best thing to do is not use a webcam with people you do not know.