

## Apps to look out for



### WhatsApp

#### About

WhatsApp is an app for a child to use to keep in contact with friends and family.

#### Advice

- Take time to monitor who your child is friends with
- **Monitor 'group chats'** where other members can add new people who could be a stranger/unknown adults. These people can then obtain your child's number via the 'group info'
- Check on how 'group chats' are being used as they can also be created and children added with the aim to bully or intimidate others



### Snapchat

#### About

Snapchat is a popular app used by teenagers to share pictures and videos as well as messaging.

#### Advice

- Ensure Snapmaps are turned off so other users can't see where your child is
- Snapchat messages disappear which means getting evidence of unwanted images/bullying difficult and makes children more vulnerable to receiving unwanted messages/images/nudes
- Disappearing messages can make children feel more 'safe' about sending images/nudes/nasty messages, however screenshots can still be taken
- Make sure your child puts their real age into the app. Snapchat has a setting that stops over 18's speaking to children but if your child's age is fake, they can be contacted by adults (and an adult can also fake their own age so they are able to speak to children)
- **THIS APP IS FOR OVER 13's** and shouldn't be used by anyone younger than 13 years old



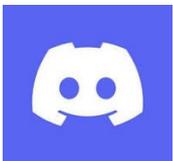
## TikTok

### About

TikTok is a popular app for teenagers where they can watch videos or share videos. It's mostly known for sharing dance videos and watching popular short videos.

### Advice

- It has a 'private messaging' function which means strangers can contact children privately
- Make sure your child signs up with their real age. Accounts that are aged 13-16years are automatically set as 'private' – meaning they can't be contacted privately by strangers.
- Live streaming means your child might see inappropriate videos or images – this can be turned off in 'settings'.



## Discord

### About

Discord is an app for people to talk about a shared interest/theme by chatting and sharing links or images about a topic.

### Advice

- Users are invited to join live videos which can be pornographic/nude/sexual in nature
- The app is **18+** and should not be used by children
- Ensure location tracking is turned off within the app
- Ensure video is turned off within the app
- Encourage children to not enter any chats that are clearly labelled **18+**
- **THIS APP SHOULD NOT BE USED BY CHILDREN**



## YikYak

### About

YikYak is an anonymous chatting app that lets users within a five-mile radius read posted messages. Rumours can be posted and spread quickly.

### Advice

- Yik Yak has no user names, no handles, no real names, and no photos so it is important to closely monitor conversations
- As it is completely anonymous it is a breeding ground for bullying – check regularly to ensure it is not being used for this



## OmeTV

### About

This is a new version of **Omegle**. This is an anonymous video chatting platform that pairs children with a complete stranger somewhere/anywhere in the world.

### Advice

- **THIS APP IS VERY DANGEROUS AND SHOULDN'T BE USED BY CHILDREN.** OME can be extremely dangerous – children can be exposed to nudity and even real-life sex acts on screen. Predators/paedophiles often use this site to sexually exploit and groom children including saving photos and videos, which they then use against them in the future/threaten them with or share on other sites or the dark web.



## Kik

### About

Kik is a free instant messaging/chat app.

### Advice

- The company states that it's for children 13 and older, but the App Store rates it as inappropriate for anyone younger than 17 given its level of risk
- Anyone can contact children on this app – leaving them very vulnerable
- There is a vast amount of sexual content the app can expose children to
- It is an easy way for predators to groom children so if found the advice is to delete it



## Whisper

### About

An anonymous app focused on sharing personal secrets and meeting new people.

### Advice

- **THIS IS A VERY DANGEROUS APP** as there is no clear way to know who you are speaking to, their age, gender etc
- It is an easy way for predators to groom children so if found the advice is to delete it.



## Yubo

### About

Similar to Tinder, the app is designed to allow teens to flirt with the view to date

### Advice

- This app leaves children vulnerable to exploitation online as adults/predators can create fake profiles to lure children in
- Whilst states it's an app to 'make friends' this isn't the case and should be **CLOSELY MONITORED**.



## Ask.fm

### About

This app allows users to anonymously ask questions and receive answers

### Advice

- This app requires **VERY CLOSE MONITORING**
- It has been featured in a number of cyber bullying cases where individuals will create nasty polls/questions about a person with a view to bully them – it is important to keep an eye on this



## Hot or Not

### About

This app allows strangers to rate a user's 'attractiveness' with the aim to meet up with them

### Advice

- **THIS IS A DANGEROUS APP** – especially for children with low self esteem
- Predators take advantage of children making them feel special by positively rating their pictures
- Easy for children to share personal phone number/information so HIGH RISK for them to be exploited



## Burn Book

### About

Burn Book is an app where anonymous rumours can be posted about people through audio messages, texts and photos.

### Advice

- **THIS IS A DANGEROUS APP** as it is a 'bullying' app with the aim to target individuals that people don't like
- It is an easy way for children to be bullied so if found the advice is to delete it



## Wishbone

### About

This app allows users to compare people and rate them on a scale

### Advice

- **THIS IS A DANGEROUS APP** as it is a 'bullying' app with the aim to bully and intimidate others, or start rumours and create drama between friends, boyfriends and girlfriends etc.
- It is an easy way for children to be bullied so if found the advice is to delete it



## PURP

### About

An app for children to make 'new friends'.

### Advice

- This app leaves children vulnerable to exploitation online as adults/predators can create fake profiles to lure children in
- Whilst states it's an app to 'make friends' this isn't the case and should be **CLOSELY MONITORED**.

## AI Apps

### About

AI apps are being used more and more by teenagers and online predators. There are hundreds of apps available online. AI enables photographs to be transformed into sexual/nude images often called 'nude deep fakes'. Studies show 4 out of every class of 30 have experienced nude deep fakes.

### Advice

- Have open conversations with your children about AI and deep fake to emphasise the importance of always keeping images private.
- Monitor devices for any AI tools or apps, including in internet search history.
- Reiterate the importance of telling parents if they come across a deep fake image of themselves.
- If your images are used without consent, you can file DMCA (Digital Millennium Copyright Act) takedown requests with the platform where the image is posted. You can also request removal under data protection laws.

## 'Vault apps'

### About

- These are apps that hide content on phones and tablets by looking like a 'safe' app/logo
- Anything can be hidden behind the app such as photos, audio, websites and apps
- They often look like harmless apps — a popular one is a fake calculator
- Sometimes, these apps require a passcode to gain entry
- Some even take a photo if someone is trying to figure out the combination to it

### Examples

- AppLock
- Vault
- Vaulty
- SpyCalc
- Hide It
- CoverMe
- Secret
- Secret

Photo



Pro

Photo Vault  
Calculator

- Calculator

Vault

- Calculator%

