

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS REGARDING SOCIAL MEDIA APPS



Flinch: Stare at the other person and the first to smile, laugh or 'flinch' loses the match. However the other person can be a complete stranger, of any age, from any country and can say or do anything. **Concerns:** It can be an easy platform for sexual predators, cyberbullies and criminals to gain access to targets.



Musical.ly: You pick a song and are supposed to lip-sync along to it, creating a mini music video. This can then be shared either in the app itself or on Vine, Twitter and Instagram. **Concerns:** Pornographic material, children are at risk of being exposed to inappropriate content and being groomed. Users can also search for other users to view or follow near their own location.



Live.ly: A new live video streaming platform created by musical.ly. It is live video streaming in a social networking app and allows users to broadcast live videos to online friends. Users can log in with their musical.ly, Facebook or Twitter account. **Concerns:** Privacy and safety.



Whisper: A social 'confessional app' that allows users to post whatever is on their minds along with an image. **Concerns:** 'Whispers' are often sexual in nature with some users using the app to hook up with people nearby. Content can be dark with 'Whisper topics' including insecurity and depression. The app also encourages users to exchange information in the 'Meet Up' section.



GroupMe: Another app that doesn't charge fees or have limits for direct and group messages. Users can also send photos, videos and calendar links. **Concerns:** This app is for older teens and has emoji's that have some alcohol themes including drinking and 'sexy' images.



Chatroulette: This is a website which lets you talk to another person anywhere in the world. When you go onto the site, Chatroulette connects you to someone at random. You can talk to people via video or text. **Concerns:** Explicit and inappropriate images and talking to strangers.



Yik Yak: This is an online bulletin board which uses the GPS settings on your mobile phone or tablet to find your location and shows you the most recent posts from other people around you. As well as posting your own content, you can post and vote on other people's bulletin boards. **Concerns:** Geotagging, bullying and lack of anonymity.



MeetMe: A social network that differentiates itself from others because it introduces people to new friends instead of connecting them to existing ones. **Concerns:** Profile information is not verified, predators can easily pose as teens to befriend and lure other teens to meet in person.



Rando 4Me: This is an app allowing you to easily exchange photos with strangers all over the world. You take a picture and send it away. As soon as your photo has landed somewhere in the universe, you receive a photo back from a stranger. **Concerns:** Indecent images could be sent.



Periscope: This app works in conjunction with Twitter and lets you broadcast and explore the world through live video. **Concerns:** Broadcasting live to strangers across the world and strangers who may broadcast teens, live and in real time. There are also concerns around inappropriate challenges being set by children. i.e. 'show your bra when you've reached 20 views'.



Bip Messenger: This is an app that allows for instant messaging and voice and video call experience. You can send, instantly and for free all your photos, videos, audios and messages. **Concerns:** Inappropriate messaging, videos and location sharing.



Palringo: This the world's largest network of mobile gaming communities. The app lets you chat and play games with people from all over the world. You can chat one-on-one, play a range of games directly in your group chat, create your own group or join one of the already user created communities. **Concerns:** Potential predators may use the app to meet children. The app can also lead to discussing about inappropriate topics.



Hot or Not: This is a rating site that allows users to rate the attractiveness of photos submitted voluntarily by others. The app also shows you a list of the 'hottest' people nearby. You can also send messages via the app if you get a match. **Concerns:** Potential predators and fake profiles being set up by underage children as the app doesn't verify age.



Blendr: This is a dating/flirting app used to meet new people through GPS location services. You can send messages, photos and videos via the app. **Concerns:** Potential sexual predators, sexting and the fact that there are no age restrictions.



Roblox: A gaming site for kids and teens creating adventures, role play and learning with friends. **Concerns:** Children and teenagers being asked for naked images/videos.



Dubsmash: An app which lets you create your own music videos dubbed with famous sounds and quotes. Once you've finished you can share the video with your friends or with people from around the world. **Concerns:** Inappropriate language and bullying.



SimSimi: This is an artificial intelligence chatting robot also known as a chatbot. Chatbots are computer programmes that simulate human conversations on the internet. With the development of artificial intelligence, chatbots are becoming more prominent. **Concerns:** Content on the app contains offensive language and sexual content may cause upset for some users.



Yellow: This app labelled as 'Tinder for Kids' and 'Teenager Tinder' doesn't bill itself as a dating app but as an app to make new friends on Snapchat. You just connect your Snapchat account, upload a selfie and swipe left or right to connect with new people to follow. If both agree to 'liking' each other then you can communicate on chat apps including Snapchat and Kik. **Concerns:** Sexual predators could exploit the app and set up fake profiles and message teenage users. There are also fears around inappropriate images and chat on the site which is used by children as young as 10 years of age. There are no checks on users' age.



FMyLife: This is an online community where you can post a short caption about an unfortunate incident that has happened during your day. The caption usually starts with “today...” and ends with “FML”. You can also comment on other people’s stories. **Concerns:** Inappropriate content and lack of control.



DeviantArt: This is an online community where you can post your art and comment on other peoples work. **Concerns:** Inappropriate sexual content and offensive / rude comments.



Sickipedia: An online forum where you can submit jokes which can be viewed online. **Concerns:** Sexual content, offensive and rude content and racist content.



Line: A text, video and voice-messaging app that also integrates social media elements such as group chats and games. **Concerns:** Minors accessing the app and the ‘hidden chat’ feature which is similar to Snapchats disappearing messages.



Skout: This is a ‘flirting app’ that allows users to sign up as adults or teens. They are then placed in appropriate peer groups, where they can post feeds, pictures and chat. Users get notifications when other users in the area join and when someone ‘checks’ them out however points must be paid to see who it is. **Concerns:** No age verification.



Burn Note: A messaging app that erases messages after a set period of time. However users cannot send pictures or videos via the app. Parents should be aware of the app as it allows teens to communicate covertly, with no evidence that any conversation took place. **Concerns:** Cyber bullying and inappropriate behaviour.



MyLOL: This is a dating site for teenagers aged 13-20 years, although some users are up to 25 years. You can view other people’s profiles and search for others based on age, gender and location. You can also post on its forum, sent instant messages and make video calls. **Concerns:** Potential paedophiles may use the app.



Snog: A teen dating site that lets you rank other peoples profiles as snog, marry or avoid. These ratings are then ranked and users are featured on a top rated members list. You can also send private messages via the app. **Concerns:** Potential paedophiles, inappropriate activities and pornographic images.



Keek: This is a social network where you can upload video updates called ‘Keeks’. Users can reply to videos with text or video comments known as ‘Keekbacks’. **Concerns:** Potential paedophiles, content and privacy issues for teens. There are also no options for users to set their content to private.



ChaCha: This is described as ‘the best random video chat and like Omegle instantly matches you with the coolest people around the world’. **Concerns:** The app could be used to exploit children. The app connects you with random users/strangers, and while rated 17 and over there is nothing in place to stop children from downloading it.



BigoLive: This is described as a platform where you can start your own live stream and watch ‘talented performers’. **Concerns:** Inappropriate streaming and child grooming. It is believed that grown adults are making inappropriate requests to children. The app also makes available personal information on children.



YouNow: This is a Live Stream Video Chat app which is intended for persons 13 or older. Persons can watch or stream real-time videos. The app also allows you to take selfies and send gifts via the app. **Concerns:** Nudity, sexual content, bullying and the unpredictability of live streaming.



PopJam: This app allows children to create art, stories, photos and games and then share their creations with the world. They can also like and comment on others creations. **Concerns:** Social pressures; collecting ‘likes’ and followers, causing unhealthy attitudes / expectations about social media.



Twitch: This is a live video game website where you can live stream your own games and chat to other gamers. **Concerns:** Violent games, commentators using mature language and inappropriate advertising. There are also the usual risks around live streaming, including inappropriate and unpredictable content.



Voxer: A free messaging app for smartphones that allows users to send real time voice messages, photos, GIFTS and text messages. **Concerns:** Cyber bullying, the sharing of content, strangers using the app for inappropriate behaviour and when you sign up the app automatically shares your location.