

Are You 'App-solutely' Aware?

Snapchat: Age Limit: 13

A way of sending messages video and pictures. These messages are only displayed for a pre-set amount of time before they delete themselves. The person sending the message chooses how long the message displays for. The person receiving the message can however take a screen shot (the sender is informed of this but cannot do anything about it) this allows them to use the message or image in any way they want. Because the sender knows the message will delete may lead them to share more than they normally would.



Instagram: Age Limit: 13

Users can upload and share photos. Other people can then leave comments. The privacy settings allow pictures only to be seen by approved followers. If these settings are not on then all users can view the pictures. Pupils should also be advised that they should not turn on the 'geotagging' feature which allows other users to know where the pictures were taken

Vine: Age Limit 18

This app has been called the 'video version of Instagram'. It allows users to share video footage of up to six seconds. Again the privacy settings are very important and need to be reinforced with pupils



iMeetzu: Age Limit: 18

This app uses the tag line 'meet a stranger' and 'trolls are welcome, don't be courteous'. It allows users to chat with people all over the world via text, webcam and chat-room.

Kik: Age Limit: 18

Users can share messages, videos, pictures and files. This is done by 'username' and login. The conversations on her can be seen as more like personal adverts and can be graphic.





Ask.fm: Age Limit: 12

Marketed as a question and answer app, users can anonymously post on other users' profiles as well as share questions, pictures and videos.

Tinder: Age Limit: 12

This app works by creating a library of Facebook profile pictures. Other users can then 'heart' pictures. If two users 'heart' each other they are deemed a 'match' and can then send messages to each other. The app reveals the location of the users and allows users to 'match' with others up to 100 miles away



The Tumblr logo, consisting of the word 'tumblr.' in white lowercase letters on a dark blue square background.

Tumblr: Age Limit: 18

Although this app has now removed sexually explicit tags (e.g., #porn) there is still a lot of harmful content. By using the '#' sign before a word lets you see what others have posted using that particular word or phrase.

General Advice:

Keep reminding and encouraging pupils not to share any personal information online.

Pupils need to be aware that the information and pictures that they see online may not be genuine pictures of the person they are communicating with

Remember, what is illegal in the real world is illegal in the virtual world too

Review the schools list of 'blocked websites' regularly to add anything new that may pose a risk

Useful sites:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/Teachers>

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/help-and-advice/for-parents/for-parents-hub_wda96726.html

<http://ceop.police.uk>