

A chance to talk  
and meet other  
parents.

Share your  
thoughts  
and ideas.

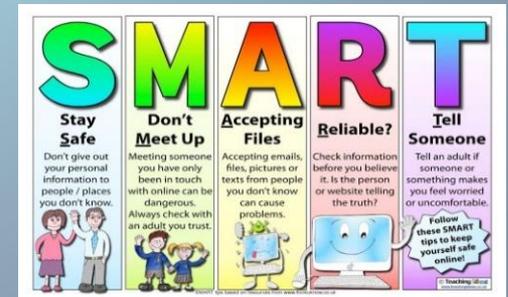
Join us 'virtually'  
with a cup of your  
favourite hot drink.

Share information  
with others.



# COFFEE MORNING CALLING ALL PARENTS/CARERS

## Online Safety



EVERY FRIDAY (TERM TIME ONLY) 10:00 -11:00am

DON'T FORGET TO  
REMEMBER

## **We live in a world full of Apps!**

While some are harmless, others pose threats that we may not even be aware about. Popular apps can make our children easy targets or may even expose them to explicit, unfiltered content.

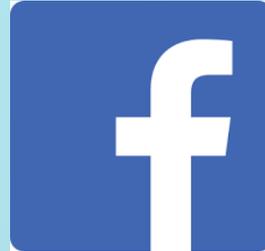
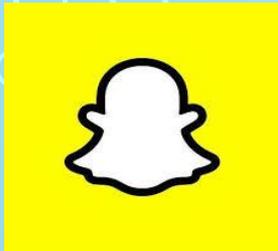
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The next slide will show some apps that have been found to be totally inappropriate for children and young people to access. Remember, this is not all of the apps that are on social media, so **it's important to do your research and ask questions!!**

## SOCIAL NETWORKING APPS



**Instagram, Facebook and Snapchat** are all platforms where you can share videos and pictures. As a consequence, it has been a platform for online bullying.



**Kik** is an alternative, cross-platform messaging app that allows user to chat anonymously without the need for phone service. Along with being able to share most any digital media, users can also video chat with one another.

### Other apps are:

**Live.me** users are able to view the live broadcasts of other users. This app contains features allowing users to locate local broadcasts within their city or town, as well as being able to view broadcasts worldwide by selecting specific regions.

**Yubo** allows users to meet strangers online and video chat with them. Yubo's design closely resembles the popular dating app known as Tinder.

**MeetMe** is a social app that advertises its ability to allow users to meet new people through messages, video calls, and live streams. Mainly used as a dating app,

## ANONYMOUS MESSAGING APPS



**Whisper** lets users post photos and videos completely anonymously. Users can interact with one another by commenting on posts or by messaging other users directly.



**Chatruletka** is a social, “cam-chat” app that connects users with strangers around the world via randomly selected video calls.

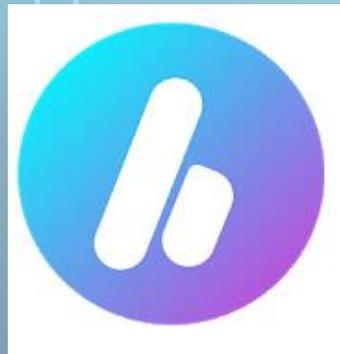
### Other apps are:

**YOLO** works in conjunction with the popular Snapchat app. This app allows users to comment anonymously on the stories of other users. Can be used to cyberbully people or be the victim of cyberbullying.

## Virtual/Augmented Reality and Role-play Apps



**Among Us** is a multiplayer game allowing you to take on different roles in the game. If playing a game that is set to public, children may meet and chat with people they don't know which could put them at risk. Although you can use the censor filter to block out bad language, it does not block everything



**Holo** contents can be shared just like any other photo or video through external messaging and social media. It is not filtered and can contain explicit pictures and pornographic content.

### Other apps are:

**WallaMe** allows users to link short messages, phone-drawn graffiti, and images to locations in the real world with augmented reality. Using their device's camera, anyone can view public postings called Walls. These can also be private so that only specified people can view them. Could contain explicit pictures.

**BitLife** users are able to simulate living another life. This text-based game allows users to decide how their character will grow and act. Contains mild sexual content and nudity; mature suggestive themes; simulated gambling and drugs; mild profanity and crude humour.

Also includes:  
**Fortnite** and **Roadbloc**.

## Apps that hide browser history



**DuckDuckGo** is a popular privacy browser app that allows users to browse the internet with more privacy and security than the standard browser/search engine. The user can look at anything they want to on the internet without anyone being able to see what they saw. Can be used to access pornography and other explicit content.



**Calculator** is an app designed to appear like a normal calculator. Requiring a password to access, this app allows users to hide photos, videos, and apps. Users can also hide their browser history when using the browser that comes built into the app. Can be used to hide naked or inappropriate photos of people.

**Other apps are:**

**POOF** is a small, knock off app of Snapchat. It lets users message other users within visual range. It does not require an internet connection; however, users do still require shared Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connection. Messages in this app are deleted once users move out of range or are inactive for too long. Can be used by sexual predators to connect with your child or send them pornographic content.

# FIFTEEN APPS

## PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

### MEETME



MEETME is a dating social media app that allows users to connect with people based on geographic proximity. As the app's name suggests, users are encouraged to meet each other in person.

### GRINDR



GRINDR is a dating app geared towards gay, bi and transgender people. The app gives users options to chat, share photos and meet up based on a smart phone's GPS location.

### SKOUT



SKOUT is a location-based dating app and website. While users under 17 years old are unable to share private photos, kids can easily create an account using a different age.

### WHATSAPP



WHATSAPP is a popular messaging app that allows users to send texts, photos, voicemails, make calls and video chats worldwide. WHATSAPP uses an internet connection on smart phones and computers.

### TIKTOK



TIKTOK is a new mobile device app popular with kids used for creating and sharing short videos. With very limited privacy controls, users are vulnerable to cyber bullying and explicit content.

### BADDO



BADDO is a dating and social networking app where users can chat, share photos and videos and connect based on location. While the app is intended for adults only, teens are known to create profiles.

### BUMBLE



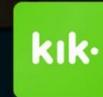
BUMBLE is similar to the popular dating app "Tinder" however, it requires women to make the first contact. Kids have been known to use BUMBLE to create fake accounts and falsify their age.

### SNAPCHAT



SNAPCHAT is one of the most popular apps in recent years. While the app promises users can take a photo/video and it will disappear, new features including "stories" allows users to view content for up to 24 hours. Snapchat also allows users to see your location.

### KIK



KIK allows anyone to contact and direct message your child. Kids can bypass traditional text messaging features. KIK gives users unlimited access to anyone, anywhere, anytime.

### LIVEME



LIVE.ME is a live-streaming video app that uses geolocation to share videos so users can find out a broadcaster's exact location. Users can earn "coins" as a way to "pay" minors for photos.

### HOLLA



HOLLA is a self-proclaimed "addicting" video chat app that allows users to meet people all over the world in just seconds. Reviewers say they have been confronted with racial slurs, explicit content, and more.

### WHISPER



WHISPER is an anonymous social network that promotes sharing secrets with strangers. It also reveals a user's location so people can meet up.

### ASK.FM



ASK.FM is known for cyber bullying. The app encourages users to allow anonymous people to ask them questions.

### CALCULATOR%



CALCULATOR% is only one of SEVERAL secret apps used to hide photos, videos, files, and browser history.

### HOT OR NOT



HOT OR NOT encourages users to rate your profile, check out people in their area, and chat with strangers. The goal of this app is to hook up.

## Some recent information from the NSPCC

Freedom of Information responses from 38 police forces in England and Wales show that 1,220 online grooming offences against children recorded in just 3 months of lockdown.

*Instagram* was used in 37% of cases

**Facebook-owned apps (Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp)** were used in 51% of cases

*Snapchat* was used in 20% of cases for which data was available.

Source: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2020/instagram-grooming-crimes-children-lockdown/>  
[13 November 2020]

## Top Tips:

1. Sit down with your children and talk to them about anything you have concerns about explaining to them why it concerns you.
2. Be honest and straightforward with your children. Talk to them about the consequences of inappropriate use of technology. Set boundaries and rules with them.
3. Let your children know that you want what's best for them; let them know why you are monitoring their devices.
4. Have conversations with your children about what kinds of apps they have on their devices.

### **SUGGESTED WEBSITES FOR PARENTS**

[www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/)

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/)

[www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/article-internet-use-and-safety](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/article-internet-use-and-safety)

### **SUGGESTED WEBSITES FOR CHILDREN**

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

[www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)