

Online Safety News



Summer 2018 | PARENTS/CARERS

Facebook launches new messaging app for 12+

A new messaging app, '**Messenger Kids**', has been launched by Facebook for children under 13. The standalone app is controlled from a parent's Facebook account. Parents are in full control of the contact list and children can only connect to others with parental approval. The app doesn't show adverts or collect marketing data. According to Facebook, 'The home screen shows them at a glance who they are approved to talk to, and when those contacts are online'.



Yellow App renamed Yubo

In last summer's newsletter an article was featured on the app called Yellow, dubbed by some as 'Tinder for Teens'. The app has now been renamed **Yubo** and has many new features such as live streaming, group video chat and instant messaging. When creating a profile, users can only upload real photographs rather than an avatar. **There is a safety guide for teens and parents on the Yubo website.**

As with other social networking sites it is important to remember how easy it is to create a fake profile page and exploit other users.

Parents need to have an awareness of the apps children are using, be aware of potential risks and have regular conversations with children to help them make positive choices online.

Posting photographs of your children

Many parents want to share photographs of their children online with friends and family but it is important to remember that photographs can reveal a lot of information about your child. **Ensure that photographs are taken with the location setting disabled.**

Parents can help children build a positive digital footprint, stressing the importance of only posting photographs and comments that are positive. Many employers and further education leaders do look at candidates' online presence before offering places on a course or a job opportunity.



Setting parental controls

Along with the many positive things which young people may see or experience online, they may also encounter things which may worry or upset them. This could be anything from a scary picture or hateful comment to something which is intended for an adult audience or potentially even illegal content. Setting parental controls can help create a safer online experience for younger children. Internet Matters has created step by step guides to help parents set up the right controls and privacy settings on networks, gadgets, apps, and sites popular with children. Visit the Internet Matters website for guidance on setting parental controls: bit.ly/InternetMattersParentalControls



How does the internet make you feel? Do different apps/games make you feel differently?

How might you know if you are using the internet /technology too much?

Conversation starters for parents and carers

Parental controls and privacy settings can be very effective tools to help minimise the risks your children may face, but they are not 100% effective. It's really important to teach your child skills such as critical thinking and resilience, so they can be aware of online risk and know what to do and where to go for help when needed. Always encourage them to talk to you if anything happens online that worries them or doesn't feel right. **Don't miss opportunities to have a conversation with children about using the internet safely, responsibly and positively.** Have a look at the conversation starters on the Safer Internet website for ideas: bit.ly/SaferInternetConversation