

Do You Know What is on Your Student's Phone?

*Here is small list of apps and their descriptions that parents need to be aware.



AfterSchool App

AfterSchool App is an anonymous app that creates a separate chat group for every school. It has been removed twice from the AppStore because of threats and arrests. Messages often include bullying, pornography, and alcohol or drug references.



Ask.fm

Ask.fm is one of the godfathers of cyber bullying apps (as it has been around for quite some time). It encourages students to set up a public profile and allow anonymous people to ask them questions. This encourages bullying and can really hurt the student's feelings.



The Blue Whale Challenge

The Blue Whale Challenge creates new opportunities for predators to target victims on social media by forcing teens to perform harmful tasks over 50 days, with the last task urging the victim to commit suicide. The challenge as a whole is meant to harm students and slowly get them to trust the game. Get involved, have a healthy dialog with your students about their day and social media.



Bumble App

Similar to Tinder, Bumble is a mobile dating app. However, on the Bumble app women must be the first to make contact. Tweens and teens have been known to lie about their age and create fake accounts on apps like Bumble.



BurnBook App

BurnBook is an anonymous app for posting text, photos and audio rumor messages about others. The

app compiles messages by school, so the app requires access to your location. It encourages students to screenshot the rumors and save them to their phone, which causes bullying issues.



Calculator% Private Photo App

The "Private Photo (Calculator%)" app is designed to help students hide photos and videos behind an innocent looking calculator app. This application looks like a calculator but entering a passcode opens a private area.



Finstagram App

Finstagram (Finsta) is a fake (or second) Instagram account. Students get a second Instagram account along with their real Instagrams (Rinstagrams), to post silly pictures or videos (without their parents knowing about the second account).



Gather App

The Gather app is an event planning app that makes it easy for users to create and share real life events. Invitations can be sent to anyone in a user's phone contacts, even if they don't have the app.



IMVU App

IMVU is an app where users create custom avatars and use them to chat with strangers in random chats or 3D chat rooms. This app can be used by predators to try and get victims to share their phone number, send photos, and video chat off of the app.



Jott Messenger App

Jott Messenger is an app that allows students to send messages without a data plan or a WiFi connection. Jott messenger creates a closed network with other devices (usually using a direct bluetooth signal) and can reach other users up to 100-feet. Like Snapchat, Jott includes a "self-destructing" feature that lets the user decide when a message, photo, or video will disappear.



Kik Messenger App

Kik allows anyone on the app to contact your child and directly message them. It has been known to allow adults to communicate with preteens, and is very difficult to discern who is a predator and who is real. Some adults have been known to use this app to pretend like they are tweens and teens. Kik allows students to bypass text messaging features of their phone.



Live.me App

Live.me is a live streaming video app that allows users to watch or broadcast live-stream videos. Parents need to know that the app uses geo-location to share videos, so users know broadcasters exact location. Users earn coins on Live.me and some predators are using coins as a way to pay minors for pictures



MyLOL App

MyLOL is the #1 teen dating app in the US, UK, and Canada and is designed for students 13-19 years old. Built-in features of MyLOL encourage users to send private messages to random strangers.



Ogle App

Ogle is an anonymous app that automatically searches your location for nearby schools when downloaded. The app allows *anyone* to interact with school feeds, engage on any campuses content, and share or ask anything anonymously. Since there is little formal registration, bullies and predators can easily masquerade as students and friends



Omegle App

Omegle is an anonymous text and video chat room that connects strangers to talk with each other. The app allows you to share personal information, and also contains inappropriate and unmoderated content. Omegle's slogan is: "Talk to strangers!" Omegle also has a video chat feature. The content in video chat rooms is not moderated by administrators.



ooVoo App

ooVoo is one of the world's largest video and messaging apps. Parents should be aware that ooVoo is used by predators to contact underage kids. The app can allow users to video chat with up to twelve people at one time.



Phhphoto App

Phhphoto is a camera app that shoots moving pictures that continually loop to make short movies. There is no option to make an account private, users can only block specific users from seeing their Phhphoto posts. Students without smartphones or email addresses can get access to the app. Users can use a landline or any number to verify their account if they are on a tablet or wifi-only device.



Sarahah App

Sarahah is a popular new app and website that allows users to send and receive anonymous messages. Since this is an app that promotes anonymity, teens and tweens feel like they can hide behind their anonymous screen names and bully others without repercussions. There is no way to report inappropriate content or threats. Discuss the dangers of anonymous apps and have your student delete their Sarahah account.



Secret App

Secret is an app that allows people to share messages anonymously within their circle of friends, friends of friends, and publicly. When a student sees a secret about them on the app, they don't know who posted it, but they do know one of their 3-100 connections sent it. This can cause bullying and anxiety.



Slingshot App (Owned by same company as Wishbone App)

Slingshot is a comparison app, marketed to boys, that allows users to vote or create polls. Slingshot users can create any type of poll, including polls that are not appropriate for teens. In the beginning, this app would force students to watch inappropriate videos before moving onto the next poll.



StreetChat App

StreetChat is a live photo-sharing board designed for middle school, high school and college students. Kids feel freedom to send mean posts because they do not have to confirm their identity within the app.



Tango App

The Tango app is a social network and messaging app for phones or tablets that uses geo-location. Tango encourages users to talk to strangers which is very dangerous.



Tinder App

Tinder is a dating app, marketed to adults, that allows users to connect with other Tinder users. Users anonymously swipe right if they're interested in seeing a user's profile or they swipe left to pass. If both users express interest or "swipe right" on each other then those users become a match. Once a user has been matched with another Tinder user they can start chatting with each other in the app. Users can post images and messages as "moments," which exist for 24 hours and then disappear. When signing up, users must use a Facebook profile to verify their authenticity to Tinder.



Tumblr App (Bought by Yahoo!/Verizon)

Tumblr is one of the world's most popular blogging platforms. In 2013 Tumblr's terms of service stated they would not delete pornographic information (and they were OK with that sort of content). They encourage students to hide from their real identity (by creating fake usernames on registration). They have a big search box at the top of the page and pornographic information can still be found.



Voxer

Voxer is a free messaging app that allows users to send real-time voice messages (like a walkie-talkie) to other users. Teens like using Voxer because their activity on the app doesn't appear on their parents' phone bills. By default, profiles are public on Voxer which can be very dangerous. We recommend that you have a discussion with your student about how anonymous apps can have a negative affect on their digital footprints.



Wattpad

Wattpad is a relatively unmoderated online storytelling community. One of the major concerns with Wattpad is that teens are posting explicit and inappropriate stories that are connected to their personal Facebook profiles (and shows their profile photo).



WhatsGoodly App

WhatsGoodly is an anonymous, location-based, social polling application designed for college students. It has a 17+ age restriction, but younger students can still see polls and vote. There are a lot of questions about dating, relationships, alcohol, and smoking on the app.



Whisper App

Whisper is an anonymous social network that allows people to "express themselves." (Anytime an app encourages students to "express themselves" to strangers, please be very careful). Whisper reveals a user's location, which makes it easy for people to arrange to meet up. This also makes it easier for predators to locate and connect with users.



Wishbone App (Owned by same company as Slingshot App)

Wishbone is a comparison app, marketed to girls, that allows users to vote or create polls. Slingshot users can create any type of poll, including polls that are not appropriate for teens. In the beginning, this app would force students to watch inappropriate videos before moving onto the next poll. The videos could not be skipped, and were not something that students under 18 should be viewing.



Yellow App

Nicknamed "Tinder for Snapchat" and "Tinder for Teens", the Yellow app markets itself as a way to make friends even though it's mostly used as a dating app. This can be confusing for teens and tweens who are just getting access to Instagram and Snapchat.