



**Safer Internet Use  
Information for Parents/Carers  
Kingcase Primary  
August 2025**



- ✓ The minimum age for children to use apps such as Whatsapp, TikTok, Instagram etc is 13.
- ✓ Why? Because it is considered that children under 13 do not have the cognitive or social maturity to handle the challenges being on these Apps often pose.
  - ✓ For example, they may see footage of something on TikTok of adult nature and not have the maturity to understand or handle what has been seen.
  - ✓ Some videos are subtle – for example, they may appear funny but there is a theme of misogyny underlining. Impressionable children then pick up on this and learn that it is an accepted attitude to have.
  - ✓ Some experts would suggest that age 13 is still too young for children to be on these Apps.
- ✓ For young children to spend a lot of time on Apps, means they are not interacting with peers in person. This can then hinder development of social skills as they approach teenage years.
- ✓ Children under 13 are at risk of abuse, bullying, sexual exploitation and much more by being on Apps which are considered inappropriate for their age.

We have a strict 'No Phones' policy at Kingcase. Children do not have access to phones in school, therefore any incidents of online bullying would be happening out with school when children are under the supervision of Parents/Carers. For this reason, we feel Parents/Carers are in the best position to deal with any issues which might arise from children being on social media apps.

We have promoted key messages around why children under 13 should not have access to Apps with an age restriction.

***PLEASE LOOK BELOW TO FIND OUT ABOUT APPS WHICH APPEAR INNOCENT BUT CAN POSE LARGE CHALLENGES TO CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILY.***

### MOBILE PHONE APPS PARENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT



#### **Calculator%**

This app looks like a calculator but functions like a secret photo vault



#### **Omegle**

A free online chat website promotes chatting anonymously with strangers.



#### **Snap Chat**

The most popular. They live for their "streaks".



#### **Whisper**

An anonymous app where the creators promote sharing secrets and meeting new people.



#### **ask.fm**

Ask an anonymous question and get an answer. Linked to severe cyberbullying.



#### **Hot or Not**

Strangers rate your profile. Goal is to lead to a hook up.



#### **Burn Book**

Post anonymous rumours about people through audio messages, texts and photos.



#### **Wish Bone**

An app that allows users to compare kids against each other and rate on a scale.



#### **Kik**

Messaging app. Kik has built in apps and web content.



#### **Instagram**

Fake/spam accounts "finsta" are created to hide content from parents. Using to send messages, parents don't check it.

### MOBILE PHONE APPS PARENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT



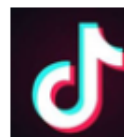
#### **Group Me**

Messenger with adult themed emoji's and GIFs.



#### **Whats App**

16 years and over. Text, Video and photo messenger. Encourages to add more friends.



#### **Tik Tok (previously musical.ly)**

Performance and video sharing social network. Kids being told by strangers they are talented.



#### **Houseparty**

Group video chat. No moderator. No warnings when someone screenshots.



#### **Live.me (linked to Tik-Tok)**

Watch and broadcast live videos without control of who views it. Can be contacted by viewers.



#### **YouNow**

Watch and stream live videos. Kids broadcast themselves sleeping. Similar to Live.me.



#### **Monkey**

Live video chats with strangers. Linked to Snap Chat.



#### **MeetMe**

Unofficial teen dating app. Uses location settings. Can have "secret admirers".



#### **Amino**

Chat based app for people into the same things. No safe guards. Being used to take advantage of vulnerable kids.

## Useful Web Sites for Parents

[www.parentinfo.org/](http://www.parentinfo.org/) - This website was developed out of a partnership between CEOP and The Parent Zone and contains lots of good Online Safety advice.

[www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk) - Here you will find Online Safety tips, advice and resources to help children and young people stay safe on the internet.

[www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com) - An organisation working directly with children, parents and teachers to ensure that the issues of online child protection and the safe and positive use of the internet are addressed.

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk) - The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre has set up its own website which has been designed and written specifically for children, young people, teachers, parents and carers.

[www.kidsmart.org.uk/](http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/) - Kidsmart is an award winning internet safety website for parents and those working with children. It has been developed by the children's internet charity Childnet International and has excellent information on many of the technologies used by children, with guidance on how to 'stay safe' online.

[www.bullying.co.uk](http://www.bullying.co.uk) - One in five young people have experienced bullying by text message or via email. This web site gives advice for children and parents on cyberbullying.

[www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org) / - Specific help on how to set up internet controls at home. Guidance and articles for parents about keeping children safe online.

[www.digizen.org](http://www.digizen.org) - A website designed to strengthen awareness and understanding of what digital citizenship is. It encourages users of technology to be and become responsible Digital citizens.