



## **What is Kik Messenger?**

Kik Messenger is a free instant mobile messaging app which allows users to exchange messages online within the app using data or wifi, without having to pay text message fees. Kik Messenger is very similar to Whatsapp and BlackBerry Messenger and is available on most mobile devices including iPhone, BlackBerry, Android, Windows Phone and Nokia. Kik users can create groups and send each other unlimited text, image, video and sketch (drawing) messages. The app also has an inbuilt web browser where users can search the internet, Youtube and other sites.

## **How much does it cost?**

Kik is free to download and use as it connects to a user's existing data plan or Wi-Fi to send and receive messages. There may be charges if the user is not connected to Wi-Fi or they have exceeded the data limit on their device.

## **Does Kik Messenger have any age restrictions?**

As part of its Terms of Service, the minimum age to register for a Kik account is 13 years old. At registration, Kik will ask the user to enter their date of birth, and if this specifies that they are under the age of 13 then the account will not be registered. However it's important to note that there is no requirement to prove date of birth and it's possible for users to enter any date into this field. If Kik obtains information that a user is under 13 it will deactivate their account and their personal information will be deleted. If a child under 13 has registered for an account, parents can request that their account is deactivated.

It is advised that users between the ages of 13 – 18 seek their parent or carers permission before creating a Kik account. An account can be deactivated if it is being used without permission.

If you decide to allow your child to use Kik, you may wish to make their use conditional on you having access to their account. You can agree a password for the account together so you can access the account at any time.