

Apps Commonly Used by Pupils in this School



Instagram

Parents assume that Instagram is just about sharing pictures

The app is free, it can be downloaded on any device and it allows users to alter their images using filters and photo shopping images before sharing them with their communities.

Instagram is filled with teenagers who share photos and make comments in groups. It is, therefore, a platform that is ripe for gossip and harassment. Since it is online, the bullying can follow children home from school and leave them with no safe place. Young girls are especially at risk.

Users can create fake accounts or pretend to be someone else. False profiles are used to attack victims, goad them into revealing information or trick them into making statements or upload images that can then be shared publicly.

Instagram has a Parents Tips Page

Snapchat

It's easy to use.

Parents will not be able to see what was sent as it is automatically deleted.

Users/Parents assume that because video and photo texts or "Snaps" as they are called, disappear in just a few seconds the app is totally harmless. However, photos can be saved as screenshots.

Dangers: sexting, cyberstalking, cyberbullying

Snapchat has "Terms of Use" that need to be read and discussed. These terms include verifying the user is at least 13 years of age and, if under age 18, they have parental permission. The user also agrees to grant Snapchat access to their address book and allows it to upload that information to its servers. Now you have just shared private contact information on your family and friends without their permission.

Data can be retrieved from phones, even after the images have been deleted

Whatsap

WhatsApp does not require users to set passwords,

WhatsApp provides no limit on adult content such as nudity or pornography

Online predators often use a technique called "grooming," where they identify and target vulnerable or unprotected teens on "safe" platforms like Facebook. Once they've established a connection, developed a rapport and made the young person feel comfortable with their new "friend," they suggest moving the conversation over to a more private messaging platform like WhatsApp. Here, the discussion often devolves into something inappropriate or becomes exploitative. WhatsApp is even more attractive to predators because it allows users to share their contacts and even their location with other users.

Kik

Free messaging app for smartphones

You can play mobile games, make memes, watch videos, listen to music, and check out the funniest content on Reddit.

You can find and chat with total strangers on Kik.

Predators using the app to prey on children, either by contacting potential victims before meeting and assaulting them or by extracting child abuse material or explicit images from them.

Music.ly

We have been alerted to some Online Safety Concerns with the music.ly app, which is a popular app used by primary school aged children, including children in this school. It is a social media site which encouraged children to befriend and communicate with other users.

The app has recently been linked to online grooming and young users of the app have been exposed to indecent images.