

9th December 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

At such a happy festive time of the year it saddens me to have to send a letter alerting you to the risks surrounding child sexual exploitation. There have been reports around Nottinghamshire, including the Newark area of children being groomed via Social Media/Internet Apps.

In the run up to Christmas we are all too aware that some children may receive laptops, tablets, games consoles or mobile phones. At this busy time of year it is easy to lose track of all the Apps/Social Media sites that are easily accessed by children. However, please be aware that there are adults out there that do not lose track of these Apps/Social Media sites; those who will use them to target children.

Nottinghamshire Police have asked us to pass on the details below to assist parents in protecting their children.

What you can do:

Set parental settings: They are designed to control what a child can view, not what they can send so you need to know the difference between these and....

Privacy settings: These will restrict who can see what your child is posting. What a child posts can be used by potential groomers to gather information on an intended victim so that they can pretend to have common interests DI Pete Quinn said: "You need to know what your children are doing online. Don't worry about intruding – that's exactly what you should be doing. "The most important thing to do is to talk to your kids about online relationships. Make sure you are creating a supportive home environment so that if anything suspicious or untoward happens, they will come to you. "Most children we come across are mortified about their parents discovering that they have entered into a sexualised dialogue and they are frightened about what their reaction might be. "If your child tells you something like this, try to stay calm, not judge them but reassure them."

For more information on how to stay safe online visit www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Attached is a list of some Apps which can be used as a platform to access children; please be aware that new Apps are constantly developed which children and then potential perpetrators access. It is also worth noting that the minimum age is not necessarily a bar to children if they enter their incorrect age.

As a school it is imperative that we keep our children safe and we know that as parents you would welcome our support. We hope that this information is used in a helpful way to enable us to work in partnership to protect our children.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Claire Kent
Headteacher

ask.fm

Ask.fm is a global social networking site where users create profiles and can send each other questions, with the option of doing so anonymously and was founded in Latvia.



BBM

[Voice calls](#) | [Video chat](#) | [Messaging](#)

13+

Minimum age

What do you think is the right age for BBM? [Share your thoughts](#)

BlackBerry's BBM is an instant messaging app. You have your own unique 4 digit PIN and other people can only add you as a contact using this. As well as instant messaging, you can have group chats, voice calls and share voice notes and pictures.



Badoo is a dating focused social networking service operating in 180 countries.



Chatroulette

[Voice calls](#) | [Video chat](#)

?

Minimum age

Chatroulette is a website which lets you talk to another person anywhere in the world. When you go onto the site, Chatroulette connects you to someone at random. You can talk to people via video or text.



Clash of Clans

[Gaming](#) | [Messaging](#)

13+

Minimum age

Clash of Clans is a combat game where players build their own armies (clans) and battle against other armies from around the world. You can join forces with other armies or simply battle against others on your own.



Club Penguin

[Gaming](#) | [Messaging](#)

13+

Minimum age

Club Penguin is an online multiplayer game where you can explore a virtual world using a cartoon penguin character. You can also talk to other players.



Facebook

[Photo / image sharing](#) | [Video chat](#) | [Content sharing](#)



Minimum age

Facebook is a social network, which lets you create a page about yourself. You can add friends, share pictures and videos, write on people's pages, send instant messages and join online groups.



Facebook Messenger

[Messaging](#) | [Photo / image sharing](#) | [Video chat](#) | [Voice calls](#)



Minimum age

Facebook Messenger is an app which allows users to communicate with their friends from either their Facebook account, or their phonebook. Users can instant message, create group chats, share photos and videos, record voice messages, have live video chats, or simply talk to their friends and family.



Flickr

[Photo / image sharing](#)



Minimum age

Flickr is an online photo sharing site. You can share your own pictures and follow other people.



FMyLife

[Messaging](#) | [Content sharing](#)



Minimum age

FMyLife is an online community where you can post a short caption about an unfortunate incident that has happened during your day. The caption usually starts with "today..." and ends with "FML". You can also comment on other people's stories.



Google+

[Messaging](#) | [Voice calls](#) | [Video chat](#) | [Photo / image sharing](#) | [Content sharing](#)



Minimum age

Google+ is a space where you can share photos and videos, instant message or make video-calls. The site allows you to create 'circles' of contacts, so you can share different types of content with your different networks. It has a 'Hangout' section, where you can use your webcam to have meetings, group discussions or group catch-ups.



Grindr is a geosocial networking application geared towards gay, bisexual, and bi-curious men. The app makes use of the device's [geolocation](#), which allows users to locate other men within close proximity.



GuySpy is the fastest growing online social network for men who like men.



Hot or Not was a rating site that allowed users to rate the attractiveness of photos submitted voluntarily by others.



Instagram

[Photo / image sharing](#) | [Content sharing](#) | [Messaging](#)



Minimum age

Instagram is a picture and video sharing app. Users can post content and use hashtags to share experiences, thoughts or memories with an online community. You can follow your friends, family, celebrities and even companies on Instagram.



InstaMessage

[Messaging](#) | [Voice calls](#) | [Content sharing](#)



Minimum age

InstaMessage allows you to chat privately to other people on Instagram. You can chat with friends, or any other Instagram users – it also tells you if there are other Instagram users nearby.



Keek

[Video chat](#) | [Content sharing](#) | [Messaging](#)



Minimum age

Keek is a social network where you can upload video updates, called "keeks". Users can reply to videos with text or video comments known as "keekbacks".



Kik

[Messaging](#) | [Photo / image sharing](#) | [Video chat](#)



Minimum age

Kik is an instant messaging app. It lets you create your own username and message others without using your mobile number. You can share photos, organise events, share games, news and anything of interest to you from the internet.



LinkedIn is a business-oriented social networking service and it is mainly used for professional networking. LinkedIn reports more than 364 million acquired users in more than 200 countries and territories.



Minecraft

[Gaming](#) | [Messaging](#)



Minimum age

Minecraft is a game that lets you build and create a virtual world using building blocks. Other activities include using the multiplayer function to explore the worlds created by other users and to combat, chat and play with them.



Moshi Monsters

[Gaming](#) | [Messaging](#)



Minimum age

Moshi Monsters is an online game where you can adopt and look after a pet monster. You can use your pet monster to make your way through different challenges and games.



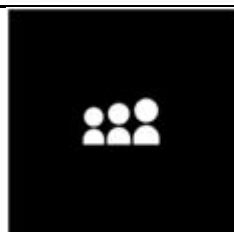
MyLOL

[Dating](#) | [Messaging](#) | [Video chat](#)



Minimum age

MyLOL is a dating site for teenagers aged 13-20, but some users are up to 25 years old. Like an adult dating site, you can view other people's profiles and search for others based on their age, gender and location. You can also post on the MyLOL forums, send instant messages and make video calls.



Myspace

[Content sharing](#) | [Messaging](#) | [Video chat](#) | [Photo / image sharing](#)



Minimum age

Myspace is a social networking site that features a lot of music tracks and music videos. Myspace also includes email, forums, videos and blog space.



Omegle: Talk to Strangers

[Voice calls](#) | [Video chat](#)



Minimum age

Omegle is a social networking site that randomly connects you to another person who's on the site. It lets you talk to them in a one-to-one audio or video conversation. You can both appear as anonymous, unless you decide to share your personal information.



ooVoo

[Voice calls](#) | [Video chat](#) | [Messaging](#)



Minimum age

ooVoo is a video chat app. It lets you make video calls, voice calls and send texts to friends and family. You can also start a group video chat with up to 12 people. The default privacy settings are set to 'public', so you can talk to people you don't know, but they can be changed so that you can just talk to your friends.



Pheed

[Photo / image sharing](#) | [Messaging](#) | [Video chat](#) | [Content sharing](#)



Minimum age

Pheed is a messaging service that lets you post photos, videos, music, voice-notes and text to your followers.



Pinterest

[Photo / image sharing](#) | [Content sharing](#)



Minimum age

Pinterest is an online interactive pin board. You can create collections of pin boards using your own images and you can also re-pin things from other people.



Skout

[Dating](#) | [Messaging](#)



Minimum age

Skout is a social networking site and app, which you can use to connect with people worldwide. There are two separate communities – one for adults (18+) and one for young people aged 13-17.



Skype

[Voice calls](#) | [Video chat](#) | [Messaging](#)



Minimum age

Skype is a computer programme and app, which lets you make audio and video calls to other users around the world. You can also send instant messages.



Snapchat

[Photo / image sharing](#) | [Video chat](#)



Minimum age

Snapchat is an app that lets you send a photo or short video to your friends. The 'snap' appears on screen for a matter of seconds before disappearing. There's also a feature called Snapchat Story that lets you share lots of snaps in a sequence for up to 24 hours.



Snog

[Dating](#) | [Photo / image sharing](#) | [Messaging](#)



Minimum age

Snog is a teen dating site that lets you rate other people's profiles as snog, marry or avoid. These ratings are then ranked and users are featured on a top-rated members list. You can also send private messages.



Tango

[Voice calls](#) | [Video chat](#) | [Messaging](#) | [Photo / image sharing](#) | [Gaming](#)



Minimum age

Tango is an app which allows you to make voice and video calls and have group chats. You can also meet new friends, play games, send music messages, and share photos.



Tinder

[Dating](#) | [Messaging](#)



Minimum age

Tinder is a dating app, which has two separate communities – one for adults (18+) and one for young people aged 13-17. You're shown other people's profile pictures and you swipe left for 'no' or right for 'yes'. When you and another person both swipe right on each other's pictures you can talk to them directly. GPS settings mean you can search for people in the same area as you.



Tumblr

[Content sharing](#) | [Photo / image sharing](#) | [Video chat](#) | [Messaging](#)



Minimum age

Tumblr is a social networking site that lets you share text, photos, quotes, links, audio clips, slideshows and videos. And you can customise your page and share other people's posts. You can also send private messages.



Twitter

[Messaging](#) | [Content sharing](#)

13+

Minimum age

Twitter is a messaging service that lets you post public messages called tweets. These can be up to 140 characters long. As well as tweets, you can send private messages. Brands and companies can also have Twitter accounts.



Viber

[Voice calls](#) | [Video chat](#) | [Messaging](#) | [Content sharing](#)

13+

Minimum age

Viber is a computer program and app, which lets you text, call, share photos and send video messages to people worldwide.



Vine

[Video chat](#) | [Messaging](#) | [Content sharing](#)

13+

Minimum age

Vine is a social networking app that lets you share 6-second videos that play on a loop. You can also repost videos created by others and leave comments.



WeChat

[Voice calls](#) | [Video chat](#) | [Messaging](#)

13+

Minimum age

WeChat is an app which lets you send and receive texts, voice messages and video calls. You can share photos and videos and talk in 'walkie talkie' mode with up to 40 friends.



WhatsApp

[Messaging](#) | [Video chat](#) | [Photo / image sharing](#) | [Video chat](#)

16+

Minimum age

Whatsapp is an instant messaging app, which lets you send messages, images and videos to friends. You can have one to one and group conversations.



Yik Yak

[Messaging](#) | [Content sharing](#)



Minimum age

Yik Yak is an online bulletin board. It uses the GPS settings on your mobile phone or tablet to find your location and show you the most recent posts from other people around you. As well as posting your own content, you can post and vote on other people's bulletin boards.



YouTube

[Content sharing](#) | [Video chat](#) | [Gaming](#) | [Messaging](#)



Minimum age

YouTube is a place to watch, create and share videos. Videos can include things like music, animation, online blogs and clips from TV shows. You can create your own YouTube account, create a music playlist, and even create your own channel, which means you will have a public profile, and it allows you to comment on videos and create video playlists.
