



Online gaming, social media and Apps










This document has been compiled using the information gained in a Mums Net survey (<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/?order=-popularity>).





It has been designed to be informative for teachers and parents and make them aware of the apps, social media and online gaming their children may be using.




The age requirements are the recommendations from NSCPP Share Aware campaign and may differ from the legal requirement of individual apps.





This is not an extensive list of all apps, social media and online gaming. If you require any information of any not listed below please feel free to speak to us.





Logo	Name	Age requirement	Purpose of app	Why children like it	Risks associated with the app
	Ask.fm	13 years	Ask.fm is a social networking site where you can ask other people questions. It's up to you whether you want to ask the question anonymously or not.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's anonymous • It is great for peer advice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rude and offensive content • anonymity • Talking to strangers. • No registration check of age • Difficult to report and block other user • Limited privacy settings (although they are easy to locate and use)
	BBM	13 years	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free • Safe • Great for socialising. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fake profiles • Sexual content. • Reporting functions are very difficult to find. • Privacy settings are unclear. • Easy for any age to sign up
	Bearville.com	6 years	Bearville is Build-A-Bear online game. You can create a bear and move them around a virtual world.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fun • Entertaining • Great for young children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talking to strangers • You can use the site without parental email verification • It's very difficult to find privacy settings. • The information is targeted at parents and not children.





	Bin Weevils	13 years old	Bin Weevils is an online virtual world where you can play free online games, chat with friends, adopt a virtual pet, grow your own garden and watch cartoons. You can send messages to other players in the game.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you can make friends and meet people • it's fun and entertaining • it's a game and you can play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to sign up to when under 13 yrs old • Not easy to find how to report someone • Not easy to find how to block someone • Not easy to change privacy settings
	Call of Duty	18 years	Call of Duty: Black Ops Zombies is a game where players fight against zombies in a 50-level zombie gauntlet. Players can battle alone or in teams of up to 4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it's fun and entertaining • it's a game and you can play • you can kill and shoot. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bullying and rude comments • talking to strangers • no age verification • difficult to block or report another user • privacy settings are difficult to find and navigate
	Chat Roulette	16 years old	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it's fun and entertaining • you can make friends and meet new people • you can communicate with others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy for under age to sign up • Limited privacy settings available
	Club Penguin	13 years (although official site says designed for 6-14 yr olds)	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fun • Safe • Age-appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talking to strangers. • A child can register without a parent's knowledge • You can report, but it isn't always clear. • It was difficult to find and adjust the privacy settings.






	DeviantArt	13 years olds	DeviantArt is an online community where you can post your art and comment on other people's work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it's creative • it's great for sharing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy for young children to sign up • Inappropriate content (sexual content or rude comments)
	Facebook	13 years	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can keep up to date with friends • Organise events • Socialise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullying • Privacy settings • Hacked accounts. • Easy for under 13 yrs to register (without parental consent) • Privacy settings aren't obvious
	Facebook Messenger	13 years	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 or simply talk to their friends and family.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's free • Easy to use • Great for socialising. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talking to strangers • Fake accounts • Lack of control over personal information. • It's difficult to find where to report. • Privacy is complicated
	Flickr	13 years	Flickr is an online photo sharing site. You can share your own pictures and follow other people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy • Good storage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talking to strangers • Sexual content. • It's easy to give a false date of birth to register • Privacy settings are easy to adjust but difficult to find. • Reporting functions are difficult to find.

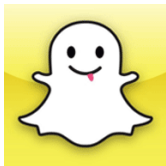


	FMyLife	13 years old	<p>FMyLife is an online community where you can post a short caption about an unfortunate incident that has happened during your day. The caption usually starts with "today..." and ends with "FML". You can also comment on other people's stories.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it's fun • you can connect with other people and leave comments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate content • Lack of control over other people's comments • Easy to sign up - no age verification • Not easy to block or report another user • Not easy to find out how the site is moderated • Can't select specific people (Friends) to see your comment - all comments go fully public • Difficult to change privacy settings.
	Google +	13 years old	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it's easy to use • it's good for learning and research • you can communicate with others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullying or nasty comments • Strangers can contact you • Not easy to find out how the site is moderated • Easy for young children to sign up to • Not easy to change privacy settings
	Habbo	13 years old	<p>Habbo Hotel is a social network site where you can communicate and interact in a virtual hotel. You can create your own characters, design hotel rooms, and talk to other players. You can also chat in the public rooms, which can be used by anyone. If you want to chat</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it's fun and entertaining • you can meet and make new friends. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fake accounts can be easily created • Strangers can contact you easily • Easy to sign up when younger • Difficult to find or change settings





			privately to someone you can create a guest room.		
	Instagram	13 years	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can share pictures Capture memories Keep up-to-date with friends. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual content Privacy settings The risk of strangers being able to view their pictures. Easy for under age to register (without parental consent) Privacy settings are available, but unclear.
	Keek	13 years	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".	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing videos with friends. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking to strangers Privacy settings. The registration process doesn't check age.
	Kik	13 years	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free Easy to use Meet new friends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual content Privacy settings Talking to strangers. The registration process doesn't check age.
	MeetMe	13 years old	MeetMe is a social network and dating site which allows users to meet and communicate with other people worldwide.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> it's simple to use you can communicate with others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strangers can contact you easily No age verifications or checks Not easy to report or block anyone Not easy to find privacy settings





	Meow Cat	13 years	Meow Chat is a social network that allows you to have chats with strangers in a public chat room, with the option to then move into a private conversation, or to chat with other people based on their location.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talking to strangers • No registration checks • It was not easy to find information about reporting, blocking or moderation • That being private is not a feature of this app.
	Minecraft	13 years	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's fun • Creative • Challenging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hacking • Strangers talking to you • Bullying • Reporting functions are difficult to locate. • Privacy settings are difficult to find.
	MiniClip	13 years old	Miniclip is an online gaming website. You can compete and play against other people and even create your own game players page with statistics. You can instant message people and comment on the games on Miniclip.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it's a game and you can play • it's fun and entertaining. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No age verification - easy to sign up at any age • Account automatically set to open • Adverts and in app purchases - risk of high bills
	Moshi Monsters	13 years	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fun • Safe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talking to strangers • Bullying. • No monitoring of registration • Privacy settings can be difficult to navigate


	<p>MovieStar Planet</p>	<p>8 years</p>	<p>MovieStarPlanet is an online game. You can create a famous movie star character to talk to others in the chat room, play games and watch videos.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fun • Interactive • Entertaining. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talking to strangers • Sexual content • Hacking. • Privacy settings difficult • No monitoring of registration
	<p>Omegle: Talk to Strangers</p>	<p>13 years</p>	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you can make friends and meet others • it's fun and entertaining • you can communicate with others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate content • Strangers contact you • Risky or dangerous behaviour • No age verification • Difficult to find how to report or block another user • No privacy settings available - your account will always be open for everyone to contact you
	<p>Oovoo</p>	<p>13 years</p>	<p>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. Privacy settings let you decide if you want to just talk to your friends or with people you don't know.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talking to random people • Socialising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual content • Talking to strangers • Fake accounts • A PIN code is sent to your mobile phone to verify your account - can be done without Parental consent • It's not clear how to report or block. • Default privacy setting is public
	<p>Pinterest</p>	<p>13 years</p>	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it's creative • it's easy to use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strangers can contact you • Inappropriate content possible • No age verification • Privacy settings automatically set to open

	Pop Jam	13 years	PopJam is a creative website for children and young people. You can share drawings, photos and audio messages with friends and other people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's fun. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There's no verification process. • Privacy settings are unclear • 1-to-1 chats are possible • Everyone can see your posts.
	Sickipedia	No age restriction	Sickipedia is an online forum where you can submit short jokes, which can be viewed online. Visitors to the website can rate the jokes and their votes. The more popular a joke is the higher up it appears on the website.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funny 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual or racist content • Not easy to block or report another user • No information available to change privacy settings - your account will automatically be open
	Sim City	13 years	SimCity BuildIt is a game where players build their own city and try and make sure their citizens are kept happy. You can create and trade resources with other players and other cities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it's creative • it's fun and entertaining. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No age verification • Difficult to find and navigate privacy settings
	The Simpsons - tapped out	13 years	The Simpsons: Tapped Out lets you create your own version of the town 'Springfield' and visit other people's virtual towns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it's creative • it's fun and entertaining • it's a game and you can play. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • payment • some of the features lag • talking to strangers. • No age verification • Difficult to block or report another user • Not easy to find or navigate privacy settings
	Skype	13 years	Skype is a computer programme and app, which lets you make audio and video calls to other users around the world. You can	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's free • It is great for socialising with friends and family. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual content • Strangers talking to you • Webcam risks. • No controls in place to assess

			also send instant messages.		<p>age when Registering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's very difficult to find out how to report or block. • Privacy settings difficult to find and navigate.
	Snap Chat	13 years	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can share pictures (that can't be saved or so children think!!!) • It's fun • You can socialise with friends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual content • Strangers accessing their images • People being able to see where they are in their snaps. • App now available that captures images • Others can screen shot the image received • Easy to sign up to with no age verification • It's very difficult to find out how to report or block.
	Tango	13 years	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always you to communicate with others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to strangers • No age verification • Not easy to report or block another user • Not easy to change privacy settings • Account will automatically be public
	Tumblr	13 years old	<p>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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it's fun and entertaining • it's creative • you can share with others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual and inappropriate content • Risk of bullying • Easy to sign up at any age • Difficult to know how the site is moderated

			can also send private messages.		•
	Twitch	13 years	Twitch is a live video game website. You can watch playbacks of games being played by other people. You can also live stream your own games, and chat to other gamers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it's a game and you can play • it's good for videos • it's fun and entertaining. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullying • Rude comments • No age verification • Account will automatically be set to public
	Twitter	13 years	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can share your thoughts • You can keep up to date on the news 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullying • Privacy settings • Inappropriate content. • Registration process does not verify your age • Reporting process is not clear • Unclear how to adjust privacy settings • Default setting is to public audience
	Whats App	16 years	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's free • great for socialising • Safe because you can only talk to people you know. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate content • Talking to strangers. • Only a phone number required for verification - no parental control • Reporting functions are difficult to find • Privacy settings difficult to locate
	Yahoo messenger	13 years	Yahoo Messenger is an app that allows you to instant message, voice and video call and share images with other Yahoo Messenger contacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate with others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No age verification • Need to opt in for privacy settings • Possibility of inappropriate content

	You now	13 years	<p>YouNow is an app which lets you watch and create live videos. You chat to, promote, or give gifts to other users.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it's creative • it's good to follow celebrities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lack of privacy • sexual content. • No age verification
	You Tube	13 years old	<p>YouTube is a place to watch, create and share videos. You can create your own YouTube account, make 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. For younger children there is a separate YouTube for Kids site, with child friendly videos.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • good for videos • it's fun and entertaining • it's good for music. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertising • Rude or inappropriate comments • No age checks • Difficult to know how the site is moderated •
	Viber	13 years	<p>Viber is a computer program and app, which lets you text, call, share photos and send video messages to people worldwide.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you can communicate with others • it's cheap/ free • it's easy to use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No age verification • Privacy settings are difficult to find and navigate
	Vine	13 years	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • good for videos • it's fun and entertaining. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of privacy • Inappropriate content • Bullying • No age verification • Difficult to report or block another user

	Yik Yak	18 years	Yik Yak is an online bulletin board. It uses the <i>GPS</i> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• it's fun and entertaining• you can share with others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• bullying or rude comments• anonymity.• No age verification• Difficult to block another user
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