



SOCIAL NETWORKING

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the second edition of our e-safety newsletter for Parents/Carers. As you know the Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School take every aspect of your child's safety very seriously and the ever changing landscape of on-line threats is something we are keen to keep Parents/Carers aware of. In our **second edition** we are focusing on providing you with information and guidance on some of the new **mobile applications** that have proven to be popular with our students, some of which we are encountering as a school.

10 APPS TEENS ARE USING THAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

- Calculator%**
This app looks like a calculator but functions like a secret photo vault.
- Hot or Not**
Strangers rate your profile. Goal is to lead to a hook up.
- Omegle**
A free online chat website that promotes chatting anonymously to strangers.
- Burn Book**
Post anonymous rumors about people through audio messages, texts, and photos.
- Yellow**
This app is designed to allow teens to flirt with each other in a Tinder-like atmosphere.
- Wishbone**
An app that allows users to compare kids against each other and rate them on a scale.
- Whisper**
An anonymous app where the creators promote sharing secrets and meeting new people.
- Kik**
Messaging app. Kik has built in apps and web content that would be filtered on home computer.
- Ask.fm**
Ask an anonymous question and get an answer. This app has been linked to the most severe forms of cyberbullying.
- Instagram**
Many kids are now creating fake accounts to hide content from parents. Kids also like to text using Instagram because messages are deleted once a user posts something.

FOR MORE INFO: APPSOLUTELYAPRIL.COM

Sarahah

Sarahah is a social networking service for providing anonymous feedback. In Arabic Sarahah means "frankness" or "honesty".

The app that can be linked to Instagram or Snapchat accounts and allows people to comment "constructive feedback" **anonymously**. The Apple App Store has seen several reviews suggesting that Sarahah is being used for cyber bullying.

"Children and teenagers are getting told to self-harm, kill themselves and that nobody likes them."

The app has been recently taken off Google Apps and Android apps. However teenagers who have previously downloaded it may still have access to it on their phones. It can also be accessed through their website.

What do Cardinal Wiseman Students have to say about the app:

"My personal experience has been both positive and negative. The foremost reason for the app is to find out what people really think of you. Due to the negative nature of some of the comments I decided to delete the app."

"The pros are that my friends said nice things about me. The cons are that it is anonymous and it can't be traced. If used safely it can be an entertaining app."

"I have seen negative comments and because no one is aware who has sent it can seriously damage someone's self-esteem"

The NSPCC have completed a recent net safety survey. It asked children and parents about violent, bullying or adult content on social networking sites and games used by children and young people. Sarahah was noted to be one of the top 15 sites that may have inappropriate content.



The NSPCC has released guidelines to help you keep your child safe whilst using Sarahah:

- **Talk** to your child regularly about what they are doing on Sarahah. Let them know they can come to you or another trusted adult if they're feeling worried or upset by anything they have seen.
- **Explore** the site with your child. Understand why they like using Sarahah and make sure they know what they can do to keep themselves safe.
- **Agree** rules about what's okay and what isn't when using sites, apps and games. You can use our Family Agreement template to help you get started.
- **Manage** your technology and use the settings available to keep your child safe.

Useful Websites

www.net-aware.org.uk

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk>

Should you monitor your child's mobile phone?

One way that many parents around the world are now monitoring these risks that their child can access is through parental monitoring phone applications. The advantage of using a parental managing application is that your child does not experience the physical deprivation of privacy that would be experienced if you remove the phone from their possession and you can monitor their activities in your own time and as frequently as you wish to.

Listed below are 2 highly recommended parental monitoring applications for your phone. The special features have been stated as well as a web address to a parental monitoring application comparison website.

OurPact: Screen Time App & GPS

- This application is free
- 4.5* rating on the Apple app store
- Works for both iPhones and androids
- Enables parents to block apps and set timers e.g. bed time and school hours.
- Parents can track location of children.
- Can monitor multiple devices from the same app.
- Flaw: That is the monitoring of which web sites the child goes to as well as the monitoring of text messages and whatnot.

Qustodio - Free version:

- Works for iPhone and Android
- Enables parents to block apps and set timers e.g. bed time and school hours.
- Parents can track location of children.

Qustodio - Paid version:

- £35.95/Year (£3 a month)
- You can monitor up to 5 devices at any given time.
- Internet filtering engine, time limits and reporting features.
- Call tracking and block features
- 30 days of device usage history.
- See who your child texts most, read text messages and set a list of blocked contacts.
- Adds an SOS button to your child's Android smartphone that sends you location-based alerts when there's trouble.
- Decide which games and applications can be used and when.
- View status updates, pictures, friends and more on social networks.
- 30-day money back guarantee

Additional apps for comparison:

<http://uk.pcmag.com/parental-control-monitoring-products/79219/guide/the-best-parental-control-apps-for-your-phone>

How can you report concerns?

All apps and websites include a 'report' feature. You can also report concerns to CEOP (a link is provided on the school's website). If you take screenshots, these can be taken to the Police and processed as hard copies. Remind your child that if they see or receive something which makes them feel uncomfortable they can report this. Remember, *It is illegal to possess or distribute an indecent image of a child.*

Safeguarding Team – Mr Walton, Mrs McLoughlin, Mrs Gray & Mr Brown