Are you social media savvy?

We’ve all heard of Facebook and Twitter but what about other social networks? There is now a range of social media apps and websites that young people have access to via smartphones, tablets, laptops and games consoles. There are many benefits to accessing social media but there are obviously risks which you and your looked after young person need to be aware of.

The NSPCC, O2 and Mumsnet carried out a survey of parents of 8-12 year olds as well as young people to get their opinions on different social network sites. The children and young people were asked to rate how risky a particular social network or app was, and what their top three concerns were. Each social network provides a minimum age and as part of this survey and independent panel gave their review of what the minimum age they thought it should be. Here are some of the most popular social networking sites assessed in the survey to raise your awareness and help keep your young person safe.

**Facebook**
- Minimum age 13+
- Recommended as 15+
- Photo sharing
- Content sharing
- Video chat
- Risky 73%
- Top 3 concerns: bullying, privacy settings and hacked accounts.

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**
- Minimum age 13+
- Recommended as 15+
- Messaging
- Photo sharing
- Video chat
- Video Calls
- Risky 75%
- Top 3 concerns: talking to strangers, fake accounts and lack of control over personal information.

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.
Twitter
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 16+
Content sharing
Messaging
Risky 64%
Top 3 concerns: bullying, privacy settings and inappropriate content.

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.

Instagram
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 14+
Photo sharing
Content sharing
Messaging
Risky 54%
Top 3 concerns: sexual content, privacy settings and the risk of strangers being able to view their pictures.

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.

YouTube
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 15+
Video chat
Content sharing
Messaging
Gaming
Risky 55%
Top 3 concerns: sexual content, violent content and bullying.

Snapchat
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 15+
Video chat
Content sharing
Messaging
Risky 64%
Top 3 concerns: sexual content, strangers accessing their images and people being able to see where they are in their snaps.
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.

**Flickr**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 15+
Photo sharing
Risky 41%
Top 3 concerns: talking to strangers and sexual content.

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

**Ask.fm**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 16+
Messaging
Content sharing
Risky 84%
Top 3 concerns: rude and offensive content, anonymity and talking to strangers.

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.

**Google+**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 14+
Messaging
Content sharing
Video calls
Video chat
Photo sharing
Risky 40%
Top 3 concerns: privacy settings, talking to strangers and inappropriate content.

**FMyLife**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 17+
Messaging
Content sharing
Risky 66%
Top 3 concerns: inappropriate content and lack of control over what others post.
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.

**Keek**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 15+
Messaging
Content sharing
Video chat
Risky 25%
Top 3 concerns: talking to strangers and privacy settings.

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**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 15+
Messaging
Photo sharing
Video chat
Risky 66%
Top 3 concerns: sexual content, privacy settings and talking to strangers.

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.

**Twitch**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 16+
Messaging
Video chat
Gaming
Risky 49%
Top concerns: sexual content, violent content and live content.

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. 49% of the children and young people we asked think Twitch can be risky.

**BBM**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 15+
Messaging
Voice calls
Video chat
Risky 35%
Top concerns: fake profiles and sexual content.

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. 35% of the children and young people we asked think BBM can be risky.

MeetMe
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 15+
Voice calls
Video chat
Dating
Risky 25%
Top concerns: talking to strangers

MeetMe is a social network and dating site which allows users to meet and communicate with other people worldwide.

Skype
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 13+
Voice calls
Video chat
Messaging
Risky 53%
Top concerns: sexual content, strangers talking to you and webcam risks.

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.

Tinder
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 18+
Dating
Messaging
Risky 68%
Top concerns: talking to strangers, location tagging and sexual content.

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.

**WhatsApp**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 15+
Messaging
photo sharing
Video chat
Risky 36%
Top concerns: inappropriate content and talking to strangers.

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.

**Tumblr**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 16+
Messaging
Photo sharing
Video chat
Content sharing
Risky 67%
Top concerns: sexual content, harmful content such as self-harm/suicide and bullying.

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.

**Meow Chat**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 17+
Messaging
Photo sharing
Video chat
Voice calls
Risky 35%
Top concerns: talking to strangers

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.
MyLOL
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 16+
Messaging
Video chat
Dating
Risky 55%
Top concerns: fake accounts, talking to strangers and bullying.

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
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 15+
Messaging
Content sharing
Video chat
Photo sharing
Risky 63%
Top concerns: talking to strangers and privacy settings.

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
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 18+
Video calls
Video chat
Risky 94%
Top concerns: sexual content and talking to strangers.

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
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 14+
Video calls
Video chat
Messaging
Risky 53%
Top concerns: sexual content, talking to strangers and fake accounts.

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.

**Pinterest**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 14+
Photo sharing
Content sharing
Risky 35%
Top concerns: sexual content

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.

**Reddit**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 16+
Messaging
Content sharing
Risky 67%
Top concerns: talking to strangers, sexual content and violent content.

Reddit is an online forum where you can submit written content and web links. Other visitors to the site can rate the content. The more popular something is the higher up it appears on the website.

**Sickipedia**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 18+
Messaging
Content sharing
Risky 75%
Top concerns: sexual content, offensive and rude content and racist content.

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.

**Skout**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 17+
Messaging
Dating
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.

**Snog**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 16+
Messaging
Dating
Photo sharing
Risky 64%
Top concerns: sexual content, talking to strangers and fake accounts.

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**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 15+
Messaging
Voice calls
Video chat
Gaming
Photo sharing
Risky 15%
Top concern: talking to strangers

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.

**Yahoo Messenger**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 15+
Messaging
Voice calls
Video chat
Gaming
Photo sharing
Risky 20%
Top concern: hacking and talking to strangers.
Yahoo Messenger is an app that allows you to instant message, voice and video call and share images with other Yahoo Messenger contacts.

**Vine**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 16+
Messaging
Content sharing
Video chat
Risky 37%
Top concern: sexual content and inappropriate language.

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**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 16+
Messaging
Video calls
Video chat
Risky 66%
Top concern: talking to strangers.

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.

**Whisper**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 17+
Messaging
Content sharing
Risky 36%
Top concern: talking to strangers, anonymity and location settings.

Whisper is a social network where you can remain anonymous, publish text and receive replies from other people. It also allows you to communicate with others through private messages.

**Yik Yak**
Minimum age 17+
Recommended as 17+
Messaging
Content sharing
Risky 60%
Top concern: privacy settings and talking to strangers
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.

**Tapatalk**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 15+
Messaging
Content sharing
Photo sharing
Video chat
Risky 11%
Top concern: talking to strangers

Tapatalk is a messaging app that connects people who share the same interests. You look for something that you are interested in and then follow discussions, post ideas, send pictures/videos and chat to others about that topic.

**Pheed**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 17+
Messaging
Photo sharing
Video sharing
Content sharing
Risky 7%
Top concern: privacy settings and bullying.

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

**Bebo**
Not specified
Recommended as 15+
Messaging
Content sharing
Risky 20%
Top concerns: privacy settings, talking to strangers and inappropriate content.

Bebo is a private messaging app. It lets you create your own avatar and then you chat with your friends using hashtags to do fun things. You can send updates, music, drawings and tell your friends where you are.
**InstaMessage**
Minimum age 15+
Recommended as 15+
Messaging
Content sharing
Voice calls
Risky 31%
Top concerns: talking to strangers, privacy settings and bullying.

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.

**SoundCloud**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 14+
Messaging
Content sharing
Risky 20%
Top concerns: rude and offensive comments, bullying and talking to strangers.

SoundCloud is an app that lets you find music, podcasts, news and comedy that you are interested in. You can follow friends and artists or just explore trending music and audio feeds.

**WeHeartIt**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 15+
Messaging
Content sharing
Risky 10%
Top concerns: inappropriate content, talking to strangers.

WeHeartIt is an online community where you can express yourself through images. You can create your own ‘collections’, follow other users and send postcards to your friends and followers.

**Viber**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 15+
Messaging
Content sharing
Video chat
Voice calls
Risky 41%
Top concerns: talking to strangers and privacy settings.

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

**Chatroulette**
Minimum age ?
Recommended as 18+
Voice calls
Video chat
Risky 94%
Top concern: sexual content.

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.

**DeviantArt**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 16+
Content sharing
Messaging
Risky 26%
Top concern: sexual content.

DeviantArt is an online community where you can post your art and comment on other people's work.

**Club Penguin**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 10+
Messaging
Gaming
Risk: 28%
Top concern: talking to strangers.

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.
**Habbo**

Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 15+
Messaging
Gaming
Risk: 66%
Top concerns: sexual content and talking to strangers

Habbo Hotel is social network site where 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 privately to someone you can create a guest room.

**Bearville**

Minimum age 6+
Recommended as 10+
Messaging
Gaming
Risk: 17%
Top concern: talking to strangers

Bearville is Build-A-Bear online game. You can create a bear and move them around a virtual world.

**Bin Weevils**

Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 11+
Messaging
Gaming
Risk: 32%
Top concerns: bullying, talking to strangers, hacking

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.

**Minecraft**

Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 9+
Messaging
Gaming
Risk: 35%
Top concerns: bullying, talking to strangers, hacking
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.

**MeetMe**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 16+
Dating
Voice calls
Video chat
Risk: 25%
Top concern: talking to strangers

MeetMe is a social network and dating site which allows users to meet and communicate with other people worldwide.

**Miniclip**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 11+
Gaming
Messaging
Risk: 14%
Top concerns: hacking, the level of security on the website, sexual content.

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.

**Moshi Monsters**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 8+
Gaming
Messaging
Risk: 21%
Top concerns: talking to strangers, bullying.

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.

**MovieStarPlanet**
Minimum age 8+
Recommended as 8+
Gaming
Messaging
Video chat
Risk: 48%
Top concerns: talking to strangers, sexual content, hacking.

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.

**Meow Chat**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 17+
Voice calls
Photo / image sharing
Video chat
Messaging
Risk 35%
Top concern: talking to strangers

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.

**PopJam**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 12+
Gaming
Messaging
Risk 22%
Top concern: none

PopJam is a creative website for children and young people. You can share drawings, photos and audio messages with friends and other people.

**Boom Beach**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 13+
Gaming
Messaging
Risk 11%
Top concerns: in-app purchases, viruses, violence.

Boom Beach is a game where players free enslaved islanders and unlock secrets. You can play on your own or team up with players around the world.
Call of Duty
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 16+
Gaming
Messaging
Risk 71%
Top concerns: violence, inappropriate language, bullying.

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.

Clash of Clans
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 14+
Gaming
Messaging
Risk 33%
Top concerns: violence, inappropriate language, talking to strangers.

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.

Game of War
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 14+
Gaming
Messaging
Risk 12%
Top concerns: violence, inappropriate language, bullying.

Game of War – Fire Age is an action strategy game where players build armies with other players to defeat ‘Wonder’ and become King. Players talk, strategise and join forces with others.

Sim City Buildit
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 13+
Gaming
Messaging
Risk 10%
Top concerns: talking to strangers, inappropriate content
Sim City 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.

**Monopoly**
Minimum age 13+
Recommended as 12+
Gaming
Risk 14%
Top concerns: playing against strangers.

Monopoly is the electronic version of the Monopoly board game, where players buy, sell and trade properties. You can play alone or challenge up to 3 other players.

**Self-Destructing/Secret apps**
Burn Note
Snapchat
Whisper
Yik Yak