

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.

Pintrest

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

Risky 50%

Top concerns: talking to strangers, fake accounts and privacy settings.

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

MessagingVideo 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