Briefing Note: Social Media Information

Some of the more common social media apps (all age rating for 13+ unless shown):

- Avakin Life
- Discord
- Facebook
- Hoop
- Instagram
- Kik – no privacy controls
- Messenger
- Minecraft – age rating 7+ - no privacy control, created environments open to all users
- Monkey – age rating 18+ no verification
- Omegle – no age verification; used through browser
- Reddit
- Roblox
- Snapchat
- Strava
- TikTok – no privacy settings, parental permission if U18
- Tumblr
- Twitch
- Twitter – public tweets seen by users
- WhatsApp – age rating 16+
- Wink – works with Snapchat; no privacy settings
- YouTube – use restricted mode for children
- YouTube Kids – no age restriction; use parental controls
- Yubo
- Zoom – no age limit; can be used for social encounters

Check out the safety settings, privacy and blocking step for these social media apps using the resources below. There are some useful information, tips, and videos as well.

- https://www.webwise.ie
- https://cybersafeireland.org
- https://ineqe.com/
- https://thecpsu.org.uk/
- https://h2bsafetycentre.com/
- www.getsafeonline.org
- www.o2.co.uk/help/nspcc/child-protection
- www.ceop.police.uk
- www.childnet.com
- https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers

These resources can be useful if a child talks to you about something happening on line. You don't need to be an expert, just listen and help them – this may mean talking with their parent/carer. And you can help them with the conversation starter tips.

Parent/Carer tips for conversations with young people about staying safe online

Encourage conversations about safeguarding young people online, the most effective tool is this conversation and making your child aware of their digital footprint and online risks. The following conversation starters (for parents) have been taken from https://cybersafeireland.org

Six ideas for conversation starters

1. **Talk about what they like doing online**, e.g. what apps they use, what games they play or which YouTubers they follow.
2. **Ask what they see that they worry about online** and what they would do if something made them feel upset or worried.
3. **Ask your child to give you their top tips** for how to stay safe online. This can help gauge their knowledge but also open the door to discussing these ideas further.
4. **Go through the privacy settings** for their apps. For every social media / messaging app or game that they use, get them to show you the privacy settings (e.g. the options that set out who can see their photos or follow their games) and how they would report or block someone or something that makes them uncomfortable or upset.
5. **Talk about what information they think is OK to share** and what is not okay to share (e.g. full name, email, address, passwords). Discuss what they might consider before sharing photos, and what kind of photos they like to share most.
6. **Ask your child to help you do something online**, e.g. change the privacy settings on your social media account, search for information on something or download an app.

Youth Department
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