



For Parents

Welcome to the Parents and Carers section of the Scomis

Essential Online Safety Service Newsletter



Is your family secure from Cyber attacks?
Do you understand what Cyber crime is?

Digital Parenting highlights top cyber security issues that both children and adults should be aware of – and provides useful tips to follow and stay safe online:

<http://vodafonedigitalparenting.co.uk/expert-advice/family-cyber-secure/>

WhatsApp



What is it?

- **WhatsApp** is a messaging app that allows you to send messages for free.
- It is available for iPhone, Android, Windows Phone and Nokia
- You can send normal text messages, audio clips, videos and photos
- It is incredibly popular – 900m+ users worldwide
- It is free!
- It uses your existing phone contacts

Parents need to know:

- Recommended age is **13** (Previously 16)
- Children ignore the recommended age
- Children can come into contact with strangers on group chats
- The default privacy setting allows anyone else using **WhatsApp** to view the user's profile
- The privacy setting can be changed

To read more about **WhatsApp** and other popular social media apps visit:

<http://parentzone.org.uk/advice/parent-guides>



The 'Growing up Digital Taskforce' published their 'Growing up Digital' report in January 2017.

Extracts include:

Parents tell us that they are not confident about how to prepare children for life online. In a survey conducted for the Children's Commissioner by Mumsnet (website),

- 73% of parents were concerned about their children accessing inappropriate material online
- 49% were worried about their child oversharing personal information
- 61% feared that social media was an overwhelming distraction from other activities
- 54% were afraid of unwanted contact by strangers with their children

The full report can be reviewed at:

http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/Growing%20Up%20Digital%20Taskforce%20Report%20January%202017_0.pdf



Have you heard of Yellow?

The Police have recently raised concerns about the use of this App by children and teenagers.

(www.independent.co.uk April 2017)

'It is very easy for adults to use the app, posing as a young person'

To find out:

- Who is using it?
- How it works
- The safety concerns

Review Internet Matters advice on:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/yellow-dating-app-teens/>

How would you start a conversation with your child about cyberbullying?

InternetMatters provides expert advice to prepare you for what your child (children) might encounter online and how to start a conversation:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/question/i-start-conversation-cyberbullying-child/>

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