For Parents

Welcome to the Parents and Carers section of the Scomis Essentials Online Safety Service Newsletter (June 2017)

Apps, Apps and more Apps

Instagram, Snapchat, Messenger, Whatsapp +++

In March 2017 the website 'Statista' reported:

2.8 million apps available from Google's App Store

2.2 million apps available from Apple's App Store

669,000 apps available Windows' App Store

600,000 apps available from Amazon's App Store

Find out more at:

https://www.statista.com/statistics/276623/number-of-apps-available-in-leading-app-stores/

https://www.lifewire.com/how-many-apps-in-app-store-2000252

Do you use Apps?

Do your children use Apps?

If you have answered 'Yes' to these questions, have you considered:

- **What information they may be gathering?**
- **Who gets that information?**
- **How they are paid for?**

Warning!

To use the App you may have given access to:

- **your phone and contacts**
- **your call logs**
- **your internet usage**
- **your calendar**
- **your device's location (where you are and where you have been)**
- **your device's unique identification number**
- **your usage of the app (when, where, who)**

Warning!

- **The app developer, the app store, an advertiser or an advertising network (advertising pays for 'free apps') may be collecting the data on the websites you visit**
- **The data collected may be shared with other companies**

Are you concerned about how your data is being collected and shared?

- **Check the 'Privacy Settings' on your device**
- **Find out how you can 'opt out' of data collection in the app's privacy policy**
- **Always re-visit your 'Privacy settings' after a device and/or App update**

View Staysafeonline's video 'Top Online Privacy Tips':

https://staysafeonline.org/data-privacy-day/privacy-tips

Consider downloading the Parent App from Internet Matters

Interactive and designed to help parents talk about Online Safety issues.

Aimed at children aged between 8-10

Quizzes and games help parents and children talk about 9 different online safety subjects

Download the tablet-only app for free:

Have you heard of Amino?

Social-networking communities work best for teens.
Recommended Age 15+ (Commonsensemedia)

Is your child playing Roblox?

Very popular with primary aged children
Roblox is a multi-player online social gaming platform.
Recently adding a chat facility means strangers can message young players directly and chat to them with no age verification. **No way to block or screen!**

Do you know if your child is using Messenger?

1. You **do not** have to have a Facebook account to be able to use Messenger
2. You can create a Messenger account with **just a name** and **mobile phone number!**

Other features of Messenger include:

1. Notifications can be turned off but users stay logged in
2. Users can see when someone else has viewed the messages they send
3. If location notification is turned on anyone who receives a message can see on a map where the sender is!
4. The user's phone makes a sound or light notification when they get a message
5. Users can text, voice message, send video or photos instantly
6. The app is updated every few weeks

(**Recommended age 16+** Commonsensemedia)

Find out more:

https://www.commonsensemedia.org/app-reviews/messenger

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