



For Parents

Welcome to the Parents and Carers section of the Scomis Essential Online Safety Service Newsletter – January 2018.

Do you know that most social media sites have an official **AGE LIMIT of 13 years?**

‘Children unprepared for social media ‘cliff edge’ as they start secondary school.’

The Children’s Commissioner for England warns in a new report!

(www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk 4/1/18)

The report examines:

- the effects of social media on 8 to 12 year-olds
- the way children use social media, and its effects on their wellbeing



‘Life in Likes ’shows how younger children use platforms which social media companies say are not designed for them.

Read the report in full at:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Childrens-Commissioner-for-England-Life-in-Likes-3.pdf>

The report identified that the most popular social media apps were Instagram, Musical.ly, Snapchat and WhatsApp.



Instagram

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. Instagram allows live streaming. **Age 13+**



Musical.ly

Musical.ly allows you to create, share and discover short videos. You can share videos with friends or with other Musical.ly users. **Age 13+**



Snapchat

Snapchat is an app that lets you send a photo, short video or message to your contacts. The ‘snap’ appears on screen for up to 10 seconds before disappearing, or there is an option to have no time limit. **Age 13+**



WhatsApp

WhatsApp is an instant messaging app which lets you send messages, images and videos in one to one and group chats. You can choose to share your live location for up to eight hours with one contact or a group. **Age 13+**

Reviews provided by NSPCC’s NetAware

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

We expect that many children will have received a ‘technology device/gadget’ for Christmas.

As a result they may have already signed up to some form of social media via an App or will be communicating through ‘multiple-player’ online games.

Do you know if your child is using social media?

Do you know if your child is playing ‘multiple-player’ online games?

Do you know if the privacy settings have been set up or even if there are privacy settings?

Have you checked their ‘friends list’ with your child/children?

Do you know the best online safety advice is to *talk to your child and to engage with their use of the online world?*

The following websites have produced ‘conversation starters’ for parents and carers and advice and guidance for use of social media:

Webwise - **Firstly, ask your child about what social networking services they use.**

<https://www.webwise.ie/parents/advice/social-networking-tips/>

Commonsensemedia – **Most popular questions asked by parents/carers.**

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/social-media#>

InternetMatters – **Share safely on social media.**

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/social-media/>

For more information contact Scomis

Telephone: 01392 385300

Email: scomis@devon.gov.uk