



Dear Parent/ Carer,

11th March 2022

Online Safety - Chat Apps

We are aware that some of our children are beginning to explore the world of social media via Instagram, Tik-Tok, Snap Chat and the rapidly expanding domain of chat Apps.

Please be aware that many of the social media sites are age restricted and further information can be found on the safer internet website <https://saferinternet.org.uk/blog/age-restrictions-on-social-media-services>

We are aware of a Chat app that can be installed to devices called Omegle. There has been some concern amongst safeguarding organisations about the use of Omegle by young people. I have included information from the website internetmatters.org to help inform and support you with making safe online choices with your children at home.

What is Omegle?

Omegle, a video-chatting website that pairs random users identified as 'You' and 'Stranger' to chat online via 'Text', 'Video' or both. A user can also choose to add their interests, and Omegle will try to pair a user with someone who has similar interests. If not, you could meet anyone. Chats are anonymous unless the user states who they are, it is free and no account sign up is required.

Is Omegle safe?

Omegle does not appear to have robust moderation nor is there a registration or age verification making them a potential target for online predators. Its own site states "predators have been known to use Omegle, so please be careful."

Children and young people could be asked by strangers to share their name, age, and location. Therefore, it is also important to talk to your child about sharing personal information online with strangers.

Further information and advice for parents is on our school website <https://www.churchendlower.co.uk/safeguarding/> or <https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/what-is-omegle-what-parents-need-to-know/#what-is-omegle>

Yours Sincerely

Mrs A Watts
Head of School & Designated Safeguarding Lead



Safe Space

What is a Safe Space?

- a place for you to go if you need to access support
- a place where you can contact a domestic abuse support service who will be able to help you safely

For more information, speak to a member of staff or contact BDAP@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

@bedsidv
bedsidv.org.uk

10 APPS TEENS ARE USING THAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW



Calculator%
This app looks like a calculator but functions like a secret photo vault.



Omegle
A free online chat website that promotes chatting anonymously to strangers.



Snapchat
This is the way most teens communicate with each other. Sending messages and snaps that disappear within seconds and stories go away after 24 hours. Teens live for a "streak" of communication.



Whisper
An anonymous app where the creators promote sharing secrets and meeting new people.



Ask.fm
Ask an anonymous question and get an answer. This app has been linked to the most severe forms of cyberbullying.



Hot or Not
Strangers rate your profile. Goal is to lead to a hook up.



Burn Book
Post anonymous rumors about people through audio messages, texts, and photos.



Wishbone
An app that allows users to compare kids against each other and rate them on a scale.



Kik
Messaging app. Kik has built in apps and web content that would be filtered on home computer.



Instagram
Many kids are now creating fake accounts "finsta" to hide content from parents. Kids also like to text using Instagram because most kids know parents won't check messages.

FOR MORE INFO: APPSOLUTELYAPRIL.COM

Please note: Due to the nature of the Internet and App Store, web and app resources change often. Any outdated material will be corrected and updated.
This graphic was created by April Requard.