Social Media and websites

Below is a list of different social media platforms that teenagers are accessing. No social media could ever be declared as completely safe however some 'Apps' are safer than others. The list is in a rank order of concern with 'Apps' that could potentially be the greatest concern to e safety and safeguarding at the top.

For all 'Apps' children should be aware of the age verification process and the age they should be accessing the sites. In addition it is important for them to be aware of how private they have their settings. The higher they/you set the privacy settings the fewer the potential issues there should be. Children need to be made aware of who they should add onto 'Apps' and the issues surrounding adding unknown people as friends on social media.

Regular conversations with your child about the type of content on the social media and games they are accessing and who to speak to if there are issues will help to ensure your child is safe online. Make your child aware of the privacy settings that are available and get them to talk through with you what they have done. Let them know that it is possible to block people.

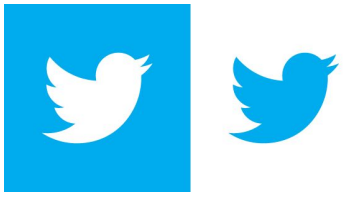
The NSPCC has an excellent resource which looks at being safe online and is updated with information regularly which is a great tool to access in addition to this document. You can reach it by visiting the following website url: **https://www.net-aware.org.uk**

App	Information	To be aware of
 Monkey	A social Media App that links into Snapchat or can be standalone. An App where you can send video recordings or speak to friends for short periods of time only.	Feature allows you to see who is online and effectively connect with anyone you want at a click of a button. This results in instant video communication with potentially a stranger. Age verification process and privacy are not very strong. Can integrate to Snapchat and allow users to become friends.

Yellow now YUBO	An online dating App aimed at teenagers to share photos. Can integrate with other apps and can appear on these as tags and bios. Teenagers swipe left or right depending if they find the people on their screen attractive.	Age verification is hard to police. Can lead to issues regarding sending of inappropriate material online.
Whisper	An App/website that allows people to communicate their thoughts online. These can be accessed by anyone else that is online. Anyone accessing then has the ability to communicate with the people who post the stories.	Can be used by people to post their desires. No age verification process so hard to ensure that the website is safe and trusted. Online evidence supports the fact that this website can be an issue for trolling.
Omegle	Another online website that can also integrate with Bios and tags on other social media. Allows people to talk online to complete strangers. This is the purpose of the website with the tag line “stranger to stranger chat”.	No age verification. Should be 13 to access. Limited privacy. Advocates talking to strangers, and will connect you to strangers.
Ask.fm	A website that allows you to ask questions anonymously and respond to questions anonymously.	Need to be 13 to access Anonymity links to bullying and trolling. Exposure to inappropriate content.

Sayat.me	Another online website that can also integrate with Bios and tags on other social media. Allows anyone accessing the website to post comments on another user completely anonymously.	Each person enrolled on the website gets to read the posts that have been directed to them both positive and negative with no idea who is posting them. Therefore a significant issue with trolling.
House party	Effectively a video chat room where you can have up to 8 people viewing and chatting at the same time. Therefore communicating in large groups that Skype and Facetime does not allow. Aimed at teenagers.	Age verification process. Privacy is only ok as long as only accepting people they know.
Snapchat	Probably the most downloaded App by students within the school. Allows people to add friends and send photos or videos that appear for a limited time only on the screen. Filters can be used to change the appearance of pictures and videos.	Should be 13 to access Can create social pressures as each time someone communicates with someone else they are awarded a streak score. To keep the streak going you have to reply within a certain time. New feature includes a map. This defaults to on. This shows in live time exactly where the location of the user is to their friends . Can be turned off. Photos can be screenshotted.

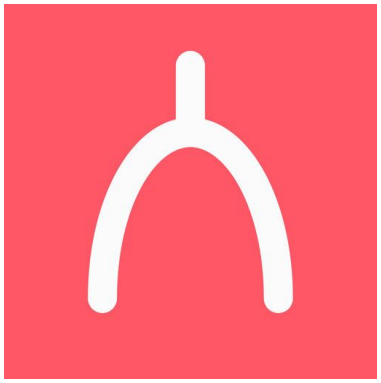
Tumblr	Allows you to share photos, quotes, videos and slideshows. You can share other people's pages too. Live streaming feature plus a private message feature.	Should be 13 to access Is used by adults and children. Some Tumblr pages have inappropriate content that is not filtered out. Hard to set up effective privacy settings
Oovoo	Online video call app that allows you to speak to up to 12 people at once in a group chat scenario.	Defaults to public settings which means that anyone can access the content unless you specify under the settings section. Therefore issues surrounding security.
Musical.ly	Primary aim is to use as a lip sync video software. Can share content with other users	13 to access Privacy settings need to be set to stop strangers from adding or following them.
Kik	Instant messaging app. Allows you to create your own username and password without using your mobile number. Can send content through all forms of media.	13 to access Can send content to anyone if you have their username so it is easy to receive inappropriate content through the site, and therefore has issues with strangers and inappropriate content.

 Instagram	A picture and video sharing app. Can post images and use hashtags to allow people to search for the content. Can follow friends, and celebrities. Does allow live streaming.	13 to access. Fake accounts are common. Need to set up privacy settings to reduce the possibility of strangers following on the app. Issues surrounding bullying are relatively common. Issues with mental health due to “perfect pictures”.
 Periscope	Allows you to view and broadcast live videos around the world. Used by celebrities and bloggers in the main.	13 to access. You do not know what you will see as it is a live stream. Location identification issues from live stream.
 **Twitter**	Micro blogging website used to express yourself in messages no longer than 140 characters long. Celebrities, businesses, schools have accounts.	13 is minimum age Defaults to public privacy settings unless turned on. Issues with trolls and bullying.
 Facebook	Social network to create a page on yourself as a form of a blog. Add photos, messages, videos and live stream.	13 to access. Issues surrounding profiles and privacy settings. Not all content filtered appropriately so can have access to upsetting and disturbing videos.

Youtube	Video sharing website that people have increased access to if they have a Google account. Can create own channel or playlist.	13 to access Issues with age appropriate content. Issues with trolling if comments section is not set up properly.
Whats App	Instant messaging App that allows you to send messages, and images. Can have group chat, and video calls.	13 to access. Random people can see your profile picture if they search, therefore risk of contact with strangers.
Live.ly	Real time video streaming App that links to Music.ly	13 to access. Defaults to public unless changed. Issues with self harm
Tango	Online messaging/calling app.	13 to use. Instantly share photos during a call. Issues with privacy.
Twitch	Gaming live stream app	13 to use. Issues with mature content.

Viber	Real time video streaming App.	13 to use Defaults to public. Has a Public hat function where people can talk to 'celebrities'.

	Strangers rate your pictures. Leads to dating.	After people 'rate' you they have the ability to try to communicate with you online.
Badoo	A similar set up to facebook in, however aimed at dating.	USP is geolocation allowing people to meet others locally. Free on PC's - Have to pay for App.
Burn Book	Post anonymous rumours about people in any form of media.	Pretty much untraceable as to who posts the messages.

 **Wishbone**	Allows you to make comparisons between pretty much anything	Unfortunately this is used to compare one student with another….
Fortnite	Involves players fighting each other online in a competition.	Can lead to bullying incidents. Online chat feature defaults to on.