

# Top apps among children – what to listen out for

APP NAME	WHAT IS IT?	LISTEN OUT FOR PUPILS TALKING ABOUT:
<b>WhatsApp</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You almost definitely know what this is already – a messaging app. You can also share pictures, videos, and your location, and be part of group chats</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group chats, especially bullying behaviour or children being excluded from groups</li> <li>Sharing locations, images and videos</li> </ul>
<b>Instagram</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Picture and video sharing, with 'followers' or publicly</li> <li>You can gain 'followers' and follow other people, and interact through likes, comments and private messages</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instagram in general, especially pupils who you have mental health concerns about (it can be used to share self-harm and suicide content)</li> <li>Strangers they've made contact with</li> <li>Weight loss content, often with terms like 'thinspo' or 'proana'</li> </ul>
<b>Snapchat</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Picture, video and message-sharing with contacts</li> <li>'Snaps' disappear and aren't saved on phones</li> <li>Known for 'sexting' (sending naked or explicit photos and videos)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sharing explicit images</li> <li>Requests for photos</li> <li>Screenshots of 'Snaps' being shared</li> <li>Strangers they've made contact with</li> </ul>
<b>TikTok</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Users share short videos of themselves, often lip-syncing to music, and watch other people's videos</li> <li>You can gain 'fans' and follow other people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Videos that sound inappropriate</li> <li>'Trading' videos with others</li> <li>Strangers they've made contact with</li> </ul>

**Remember – always watch out for changes in pupils' behaviour, and report any concerns to the DSL.**

## Sources

This factsheet was produced by [Safeguarding Training Centre from The Key](http://www.thekeysupport.com/safeguarding): [www.thekeysupport.com/safeguarding](http://www.thekeysupport.com/safeguarding)

- > [Instagram eating disorder content 'out of control', BBC News](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-47637377)  
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- > [Instagram 'helped kill my daughter', BBC News](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-46966009/instagram-helped-kill-my-daughter)  
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- > [TikTok app safety – what parents need to know, Internet Matters](https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/tik-tok-app-safety-what-parents-need-to-know/)  
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- > [Instagram, Net Aware](https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/instagram/)  
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