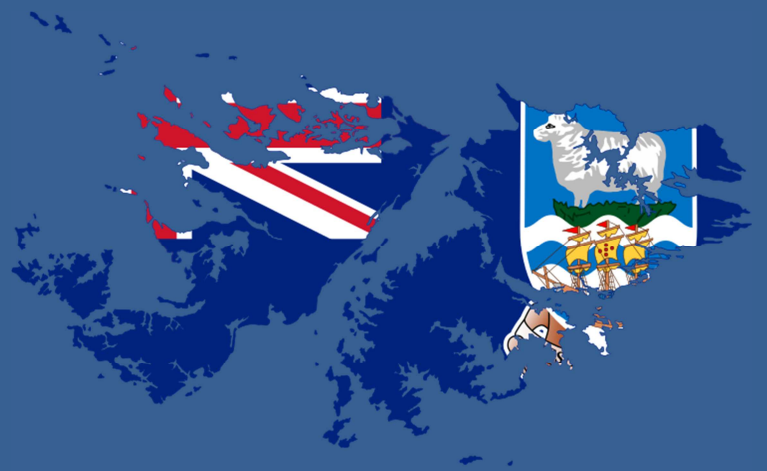




Royal Falkland Islands Police

Child Exploitation and Online Protection

Parents Awareness Brief
Falkland Islands
October 2019



Introduction

This document has been put together to give parents information on the top applications children are using in the digital marketplace, so as a parent you have the ability to effectively monitor how your child uses the internet.

No application or website is risk free, but understanding the basic principles of each of the more common websites and applications being used will give you the tools needed to effectively monitor your child's online activity.

Effective communication with your child is important in knowing what they're doing online and who they're talking to. Most importantly, if you don't know, ask them to teach you how to use an application.

There are a number of well-established principles that go a long way to making sure your child is safe online; while the risk to your child is somewhat low in the Falkland Islands, teaching these basic principles at an early, but appropriate age can give them an advantage when traveling abroad.

- Children should always refrain from giving out personal information online, even to people they perceive as friends.
- If a child publishes a picture, or video online, anyone can change it or share it. Once something is published it stays on the internet forever.
- If your child receives spam/junk email, text or a message, remind them to never believe them, reply to them, or send that message on. It's also not a good idea to open files that are from people they do not know. These files can contain viruses, or possibly an inappropriate image.
- Apps normally have privacy settings that can be used to help reduce the visibility of what your child might upload to the internet; restricting contact to friend and family
- Children should never seek to meet up with someone they have met online, without an adult they trust being present.

Always keep communication open for a child to know that it's never too late for them to tell if something or someone is making them feel uncomfortable. It is always a positive step to make sure your child understands how to block someone online, and how to report an individual if they are made to feel uncomfortable.

If in doubt, or if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact the Royal Falkland Islands Police on (+500) 28100, or Reception@police.gov.fk

Social Media Briefing

Below, we've laid out some of the most popular types of apps and websites for children: texting, microblogging, live-streaming, self-destructing/secret, and chatting/meeting/dating. The more you know about each, the better you'll be able to communicate with your child about safer choices.

If children are using them respectfully, appropriately, and with a little parental guidance, they're mostly fine. So make an inventory of your kids' apps and review the best practices.

GENERAL SOCIAL MEDIA



Facebook lets users add friends, private messaging, publicly post videos and pictures, as well as an audio messaging system with no message limit or fee. There is also a Facebook messenger app, and a children's app designed by Facebook called "Messenger Kids". This app is specifically for adults to monitor their kid's messages and provides an authentication process whereby a parent will need to accept their child's friend requests.

What parents need to know:

- **It's for users 13 and over.** Lots of younger teens seem to be using the app, but this age minimum has been set by Facebook.
- **It's mainly used by adults.** Facebook is predominantly used by young adults. As such children need to be aware that public postings can be seen by anyone anywhere in the world.
- **Teens can share personal information, sometimes by accident.** Teens often broadcast from their bedrooms, which often have personal information visible, and they sometimes will share a phone number or an email address with viewers, not knowing who's really watching.

TEXTING APPS



WhatsApp lets users send text messages, audio messages, videos, and photos to one or many people with no message limits or fees.

What parents need to know:

- **It's for users 16 and over.** Lots of younger teens seem to be using the app, but this age minimum has been set by WhatsApp.

- **It can be pushy.** After you sign up, it automatically connects you to all the people in your address book who also are using WhatsApp. It also encourages you to add friends who haven't signed up yet.



Kik Messenger is an app that lets kids text for free. It's fast and has no message limits, character limits, or fees if you only use the basic features. Because it's an app, the texts won't show up on your kid's phone's messaging service, and you're not charged for them (beyond standard data rates).

What parents need to know:

- **Stranger danger is an issue.** Kik allows communication with strangers who share their Kik usernames to find people to chat with. The app allegedly has been used in high-profile crimes, including the murder of a 13-year-old girl and a child-pornography case.
- **It's loaded with covert marketing.** Kik specializes in "promoted chats" -- basically, conversations between brands and users. It also offers specially designed apps (accessible only through the main app), many of which offer products for sale.

PHOTO AND VIDEO-SHARING APPS AND SITES



Instagram lets users snap, edit, and share photos and 15-second videos, either publicly or within a private network of followers. It unites the most popular features of social media sites: sharing, seeing, and commenting on photos. It also lets you apply fun filters and effects to your photos, making them look high-quality and artistic.

What parents need to know:

- **Teens are on the lookout for "likes."** Similar to the way they use Facebook, teens may measure the "success" of their photos by the number of likes or comments they receive.
- **Public photos are the default.** Photos and videos shared on Instagram are public unless privacy settings are adjusted. Hashtags and location information can make photos even more visible to communities beyond a teen's followers if his or her account is public.
- **Kids can send private messages.** Instagram Direct is like texting with photos or videos and you can do it with up to 15 mutual friends. These pictures don't show up on their public feeds. Although there's nothing wrong with group chats, kids may be more likely to share inappropriate stuff with their inner circles.

MICROBLOGGING APPS AND SITES



Tumblr is like a cross between a blog and Twitter: It's a streaming scrapbook of text, photos, and/or video and audio clips. Users create and follow short blogs, or "tumblogs," that can be seen by anyone online (if they're made public). Many teens have tumblogs for personal use: sharing photos, videos, musings, and things they find funny with their friends.

What parents need to know:

- **Porn is easy to find.** This online hangout is hip and creative but sometimes raunchy. Pornographic images and videos and depictions of violence, self-harm, drug use, and offensive language are easily searchable.
- **Privacy can be guarded but only through an awkward workaround.** The first profile a member creates is public and viewable by anyone on the internet. Members who desire full privacy have to create a *second* profile, which they're able to password-protect.
- **Posts are often copied and shared.** Reblogging on Tumblr is similar to re-tweeting: A post is reblogged from one tumblog to another. Many teens like -- and, in fact, want -- their posts to be reblogged.



Twitter is a microblogging tool that allows users to post brief, 140-character messages -- called "tweets" -- and follow other users' activities. It's not only for adults; teens like using it to share tidbits and keep up with news and celebrities.

What parents need to know:

- **Public tweets are the norm for teens.** Though you can choose to keep your tweets private, most teens report having public accounts. Talk to your kids about what they post and how a post can spread far and fast.
- **Updates appear immediately.** Even though you can remove tweets, your followers can still read what you wrote until it's gone. This can get kids in trouble if they say something in the heat of the moment.

SELF-DESTRUCTING/SECRET APPS



Snapchat is a messaging app that lets users put a time limit on the pictures and videos they send before they disappear. Most teens use the app to share goofy or embarrassing photos without the risk of them going public. However, there are lots of opportunities to use it in other ways.

What parents need to know:

- **It's a myth that Snapchats go away forever.** Data is data: Whenever an image is sent, it never truly goes away. (For example, the person on the receiving end can take a screenshot of the image before it disappears.) Snapchats can even be recovered. After a major hack in December 2013 and a settlement with the FTC, Snapchat has clarified its privacy policy, but teens should stay wary.
- **It can make 'sexting' seem OK.** The seemingly risk-free messaging might encourage users to share pictures containing inappropriate images.

CHATTING, MEETING, AND DATING APPS AND SITES



Omegle is a chat site that puts two strangers together in their choice of a text chat or a video chat. Being anonymous can be very attractive to teens, and Omegle provides a no-fuss way to make connections. Its "interest boxes" also let users filter potential chat partners by shared interests.

What parents need to know

- **Users get paired up with strangers.** That's the whole premise of the app. And there's no registration required.
- **This is *not* a site for kids and teenagers.** Omegle is filled with people searching for sexual chat. Some prefer to do so live. Others offer links to porn sites.
- **Language is a big issue.** Since the chats are anonymous, they're often much more explicit than those with identifiable users might be.

COMMON TEXTING CODES

LH6 Lets have sex

KYS Kill yourself

CD9/(Code 9) Parents around

LMIRL Lets meet in real life

MPFB my personal F*** buddy

ASL age/sex/location

KOTL kiss on the lips

HAK hugs and kisses

KPC keeping parents clueless

1174 meet at party spot

ADR what's your address

GYPO get your pants off

CU46 see you for sex

WTTP want to trade photos?

GNOC get naked on camera

Video games that could cause online safety issues for young people

Five Nights at Freddy's (FNaF)



This game is centred on a disturbing backstory based on classic adult horror films. The main area of the game being in a fictional restaurant called, Freddy's Fazbear's Pizza.

The first 3 games the player is a security guard on night shift having to protect themselves from homicidal animatronics.

Game 4 is based in a child's home where the player has to defend themselves against nightmarish homicidal characters.

Game 5 the player is a technician at a sister restaurant having to carry out tasks given by an on line voice.

Game 6 the player becomes the owner of the restaurant having to decorate it using online purchases and at night defend themselves against homicidal characters.

Gamers have taken to streaming their playing of the game on YouTube.

Some parents experiences

"My nephew can't sleep after playing FNaF"

"My daughter can't stop crying at night and is now scared of the dark"

"My 10 year old started bed wetting and having nightmares"

Grand Theft Auto (GTA)



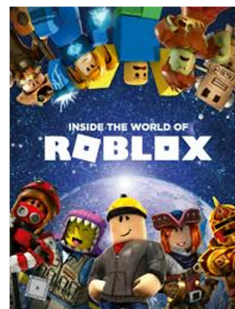
GTA is a violent video game encouraging the player's online character to commit crime, participate in violence, steal cars and pick up prostitutes in order to progress.

The most recent upgrade now allows the player to participate in the whole spectrum of sex with prostitutes with the associated audio.

Players can then choose to gruesomely murder their prostitute and recover their money.

In short it glorifies crime, violence, and demeans and devalues women.

Roblox



In this game the user creates an online character (Avatar) then they can join virtual worlds, create and play games, and chat with each other.

As at August 2019 there are in excess of 100 million monthly active users.

There is no safety protection on the site which allows it open for online predators to create Avatars with false details allowing potential inappropriate contact via their Avatar.

One parent, not on the island, reports that her 11 year old daughter was propositioned on Roblox, the child said, 'No' but her Avatar was picked up and thrown onto a virtual bed by the other players Avatar.