MONTGOMERY ACADEMY
SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

Working Together to Keep Our Young People Safe

OCTOBER 2026

APP SAFETY:
A shared responsibility

Apps and technology are a big part of daily life for young people. They can help them learn, stay connected and have fun.

It's important we all work together – school, parents and carers – to help young people use apps safely and responsibly.

This newsletter provides information and practical tips to help you keep your child safe online.

Thank you for working with us.

FOCUS ON: SNAPCHAT SAFETY
What parents and carers need to know

SNAPCHAT SPOTLIGHT
My Eyes Only

Many parents are unaware of Snapchat's "My Eyes Only" feature.

This feature allows users to store photos and videos behind a separate passcode, hidden from the main Memories section.

Whilst many young people use this feature appropriately, it can also be used to hide content from parents and carers.

TALK TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT:
- Who they communicate with online
- Sharing photos safely
- Privacy settings
- Location sharing
- What to do if someone makes them feel uncomfortable

KEEP TALKING. KEEP THEM SAFE
Open conversations build trust and help keep young people safe online.

DID YOU KNOW?
Many apps allow users to:
- Hide content.
- Disappear messages.
- Create anonymous profiles.
- Share live locations.
- Connect with strangers.

Taking an interest in the apps your child uses can significantly reduce online risks.

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If you have any concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a child, please contact us. We are here to listen and help.

APPS PARENTS SHOULD BE AWARE OF
What are they and what are the risks?

TikTok – Short video app with a 'For You' feed.
Risks include inappropriate content, contact from strangers and spending too much time online.

Instagram – Photo and video sharing app.
Risks include direct messages from strangers, exposure to harmful content and pressure around appearance.

WhatsApp – Messaging app for chats and groups.
Risks include being added to groups by people they don't know and seeing upsetting or inappropriate messages.

Discord – Chat app popular with gamers.
Risks include speaking to strangers, inappropriate language and exposure to explicit content.

OmeTV – Video chat app that connects users randomly.
Risks include inappropriate content and contact with strangers.

Chatroulette – Random video chat platform.
Risks include explicit content and speaking to strangers.

Yubo – Designed to help users make new friends and livestream with others.
Risks include contact from strangers and exposure to inappropriate content.

MeetMe – Social networking app that encourages meeting new people nearby.
Risks include inappropriate contact and sharing personal information.

Badoo – Dating and social networking platform intended for older users.
Risks include fake profiles, grooming and inappropriate content.

LiveMe – Livestreaming app where users can interact with strangers in real time.
Risks include inappropriate comments and pressure to share personal details.

GroupMe – Group messaging app often used outside parental supervision.
Risks include being added to groups with people they don't know.

YouNow – Livestreaming platform with public interactions.
Risks include inappropriate comments and contact with strangers.

Whisper – Anonymous messaging app that allows users to communicate without revealing their identity.
Risks include sharing sensitive information with strangers.

Calculator Vault Apps – Apps disguised as calculators that can hide photos, videos and files behind a password.
Risks include hidden content and secret communication.

Omegle – Although officially closed, similar anonymous chat platforms continue to appear and young people may still encounter reference to it online.
Risks include inappropriate content and contact with strangers.

WARNING SIGNS TO LOOK OUT FOR
Parents may wish to have conversations if they notice:
- Increased secrecy around devices.
- Multiple social media accounts.
- Refusing to discuss online activity.
- Contact from unknown individuals.
- Sudden changes in mood after using devices.
- Excessive use of livestreaming or video chat apps.

TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS
- Check age ratings before downloading apps.
- Review privacy settings regularly.
- Keep devices out of bedrooms overnight where possible.
- Encourage open conversations.
- Know how to report and block users.
- Remind children never to share personal information.
- Regularly review who they are communicating with online.
- Talk to your child about what they enjoy online and how to stay safe.

NEED SUPPORT?
Childline
0800 1111

NSPCC
0808 800 5000

CEOP
Report online exploitation and abuse.

Kooth
Free online mental health support for young people.

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY.
TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

SAFE · RESPECTED · SUPPORTED · HEARD · VALUED