



High Ash School

Important - Online Safety Awareness – Issue 3

February 2026

How is the Internet, Social Media & Technology raising your child?

Do we know enough to do enough?

For Parents, Carers & Guardians

In our previous online safety awareness newsletter (Issue 2), we covered why its so important that we are vigilant in terms of what our children are accessing, reading and listening to online. In this 3rd issue we look at some of the more popular platforms and apps in use and some key information surrounding them which we hope you'll find useful.

With a non-expert eye, we've looked at some of the more popular platforms and apps in use and have included some key information about them below including their age restriction, (nb. some of which can be bypassed.....!)

WhatsApp – 13+

A secure encrypted messaging service. Allows the user to send and receive messages from others with whom they are connected. This can easily include harmful links and content making it easy for predators to use and for bullying to take place. No parental controls but some privacy settings.

Tiktok – 15+

Most popular app in the world, allows users to create, upload and watch videos but can present inappropriate content and viral trends that can endanger children. There is also the potential for strangers to interact with users via the comments and direct messaging (DMs). Parental controls available.

Snapchat – 13+

A messaging service known for its 'disappearing' messages, photos and videos, thus harder to monitor for inappropriate content or contact from strangers. A popular trend, known to have been misused by some for abuse, bullying, drug dealing and sending nudes. Privacy settings available.

Instagram – 13+

Can be a dangerous app for children due to the sheer volume of inappropriate content available, especially porn and a platform with some notoriety for cyber bullying.

Holla – 18+

Allows live video chat with anyone globally. Poses significant stranger danger.

Roblox – None/age restricted for some content

An open-world video game very popular with children. Much user generated content. Always the chance that they can come across inappropriate content whilst playing. Players can kill or be killed so some violence may be present. Recently accused of a disconnect with reality. Parental controls available.

Kik – 13+

A free instant messaging chat facility with a focus on meeting new people. Has access to a vast amount of sexual content and has been at the centre of numerous cases of cyber bullying and grooming.
No parental controls.

YouTube – 13+

Video content and sharing platform. Inappropriate content easily shared. Has a YouTube Kids version.
Parental controls available.

Whilst we've listed above some of the most common apps that our children may be using, there are many, many more, and more being added daily - which we hope reinforces the message we are trying to convey— it's a minefield!! To demonstrate this, here are some others to name but a few (most of which we were unaware of until we started researching for this newsletter!):

Omegle	Confide	Hoop
BIGO Live	VSCO	Voxer
Tumblr	Parlor	Discord
WeChat	Yarn	Telegram
Chat Master	AmongUs	Tellonym
Houseparty	Zoomerang	

As a first step, if not already doing so, then please do take some time to review what your children are accessing and receiving via their devices as unbeknownst to you they may be seeing some unsavoury information and items.

In our next issue we will cover what more you can do and be aware of, and the large number of resources available to you to assist with this which again we hope you'll find useful.

Kind Regards

High Ash School and the Board of Governors