

E-safety for schools

App update
Yellow and
Calculator

September 2016

Yellow

‘A Tinder approach to making Snapchat friends’ says ThinkuKnow Australia.

What is it?

It allows Snapchat users to link up with any whose profile they like. In effect it’s a dating app. Snapchat users can make new friends by simply swiping left or right after viewing other people’s profiles. If two users both swipe right to ‘connect’ then both are given each other’s Snapchat usernames, and both can add each other in Snapchat.

Once added in Snapchat, they can the share private videos, ‘snaps’ and talk in private conversations with the users added from Yellow. It is possible to block or report other users with in Yellow and Snapchat apps but it should be noted that in Yellow the user’s profile photo and location is *never* private.

- Recent statistics from the makers of Yellow show that users are swiping more than 30 million times a day with more than 500,000 matches registered every day. Could this be a craze?

What can you do?

1. Once again it’s that old friend, the rule about friends you actually know in real life: children and young people should only have people they know and trust as online friend and contacts. Someone you have met online and like is not an actual friend!
2. Remind them it’s never OK to meet someone they’ve met online in person without taking along a trusted adult. (We see that people who share self-generated intimate images are more likely to agree to meet up with someone they only know online, so ‘sexting’ could be a warning signal that warrants intervention on more than the image sharing issue alone, but on the high risk of meeting up too.)
3. it is vital for users to understand that their location and profile photo isn’t private in Yellow.

Secret Calculator

This is a calculating calculator but not in the way you expect!

What is it?

I have written about this one before – it looks like an innocent app for a useful and harmless tool – a calculator –but don't be fooled. Behind it sits a secret vault in which users hide images and videos. Glance at their screen and the symbol for the app looks like a utility. Accessed by a passcode this app allows images to be stored securely and what is more they don't show up in the camera roll. But the photos can be shared by email. Users can select photos from their camera roll or take new ones to store in the vault.

What can you do? For teachers, parents, youthworkers and care staff.

1. Think before you send! Remind young people that the instant they press send they have lost control over where their personal image ends up. If it ends up online, it cannot be deleted. It can be photoshopped, shared, distorted and misused. We often demonstrate this by squeezing toothpaste out of a tube and suggesting they try to put it back into the tube. You can also use an aerosol of shaving foam! Aim to get a laugh and get everyone relaxed. This is not an accusatory pep talk! Then all it takes is the image of a toothpaste tube next to a warning message to remind them – you simply cannot get these photos back once they are out there nor can you control who sees it.
2. Without strong lines of communication there will be no success, so it's best to avoid threats about taking away young people's mobile phone or trying to go down the fear route. It has been shown not to work. Have a heart to heart talk instead. Be sure to leave the door open so the young person can feel they can come to you if something goes wrong. Forbidding stuff makes it impossible for them to seek help. There have been tragic cases where things could have been different if the young person had told someone.
3. Rehearse what a young person could do or say if they are pressured by their girlfriend or boyfriend to share a revealing photo. Help a young person with effective strategies to say 'no' so that they are forearmed if they need them: [ChildLine offers an app](#) called Zipit, with killer comebacks and ways to say no.
4. Why not encourage parents to set up [a Family Online Safety Contract?](#) These examples may suggest ideas so that you can develop your own version.