App Information

1. Snapchat

Snapchat lets you send pictures or short videos to friends – they disappear after being viewed but can be screenshotted. Users can also post stories which can be viewed by their contacts and last for 24 hours.

Top tips for Snapchat:

- Check that 'who can contact me' is set to 'my friends' and not 'everyone'
- Check that only friends can view stories
- Turn off 'see me in quick add' so that friends of friends, who they may not know, can't add them
- Turn on ghost mode in Snap Maps so that others can't view their location

Show your child how to report content that they're not comfortable with and how to block or report users.

Internet Matters have produced a video with step by step instructions on how to check these settings.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=56&v=EWzvUFcOhF8&feature=emb_logo

2. KIK

Kik is a messaging app that allows users to send messages, pictures and videos in individual and group chats. These group chats can be private or public, and users can also video call friends in the app.

Top tips for Kik:

- Encourage them to pick a username that's hard to guess – that way people will have to ask for their username before they add them
- Discourage them from using the 'meet new people' feature which allows them to enter into anonymous, unmoderated chats with random users
- Discourage them from sharing their Kik code on other social media sites where they might have public profiles

Show your child how to report content that they're not comfortable with and how to block or report users.

Kik have produced a guide for parents:
https://www.kik.com/uploads/files/Kik's%20Guide%20for%20Parents%20-%20February%202017.pdf

3. Instagram

Instagram is a picture and video sharing app. Users can post pictures to their feed or add them to their story, which stays up for 24 hours.

Top tips for Instagram:

- Check that their profile is set to private
- You can filter comments to automatically block comments or messages containing certain words
- You can also block comments from specific users
- You can edit story settings so that only selected 'close friends' can view stories

Show your child how to report content that they're not comfortable with and how to block or report users.

Internet Matters have produced a step by step guide on how to check these settings: https://www.internetmatters.org/blog/parental-controls/social-media/instagram/

4. Whatsapp

Whatsapp is a messaging app that allows users to send messages, photos, videos and their live location with individual and group chats.

Top tips for Whatsapp:

- Turn off the live location feature
- You can edit the profile picture and status settings so that these can only be seen by contacts, or by nobody
- Use the 'blocked contacts' feature to block specific people from being able to contact them

Show your child how to report content that they're not comfortable with and how to block or report users.

Internet Matters have produced a video with step by step instructions on how to check these settings.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uB00VSPUPB4&feature=emb_logo

5. Omegle

Omegle is a virtual chatroom which connects users to other users at random. Once connected, users can chat via text, audio or video.

Talk to your child about the dangers of giving out personal information such as their age, their location or their full name to people that they don't know.

Video chat has three different options – moderated, unmoderated and adult. Unmoderated and adult ask the user to confirm they are over 18, but this information is not checked.

Think U Know has produced this parent's guide to Omegle: https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/globalassets/omegle-parents-guide.pdf