

E-Safety: A Quick Guide To Social Networking

A social network is a website or smartphone/tablet application (app) where anybody can sign up and share content. Some simply offer the ability to share thoughts, others images and videos. Here is a list of some of the most popular social-networking websites:

Ask.fm	A website where users can ask other users questions. The website has gained controversy over a policy of allowing users to post with anonymity if they wish. The site has been associated with several high-profile cyberbullying cases.
Facebook	Currently the most popular “social network”. Users build a network of friends and can share messages, photos and videos between themselves
Facetime	A video-call service found on Apple devices.
Imvu	Instant-messaging chat website that allows members to create their own avatars, play games with other members and trade items within the virtual world.
Instagram	An app and website that allows users to share photos and videos and apply filters and effects to them.
Oovoo	An app and website that allows up to twelve people to set up a video and instant-messaging conference call between themselves.
Snapchat	A photo-sharing phone app where users photos, videos, text and diagrams with a specified list of recipients. A unique feature of snapchat is that the sender sets a time limit of between 1-10 seconds for how long a each recipient can view their content, after that it is deleted. However, this can't stop the receiver taking a screen-shot whilst it is on their screen.
Tinder	A free dating app that links into Facebook and shows profiles of people in your local area that match the criteria you are looking for and allows you to contact them.
Tumblr	A “blogging” site allowing users to submit multimedia content and thoughts. Tumblr has gained notoriety due to the presence of adult content within the site. Tumblr have addressed this by making adult content only accessible to registered users who have turned their “safe mode” off.
Twitter	Members can submit short 140-character messages (“tweets”), a bit like Facebook status updates and reply to tweets sent by other people. Unlike Facebook content, everything you post on twitter is available to the public.
Vine	An app that allows users to share short video montages they have taken with their phone's camera.
Whatsapp	An app that is heralded as a next generation text-messaging service. In addition to texts, users can send each other images, video, and audio media messages as well as their current location.

Useful Links

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<http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>