



The Knox School

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CYBER SAFETY

A guideline for Parents

THE KNOX SCHOOL



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The rate at which new social media platforms are being created can be overwhelming for parents to keep up with, and new options are being created every day. Outlined below, you will find a list of current social media and a description. We have also included the age guidelines for using the technology, but advise parents to make their own determinations on what is suitable for their child. This is by no means an exhaustive list, and parents are encouraged to speak frequently with their children regarding their social media use.

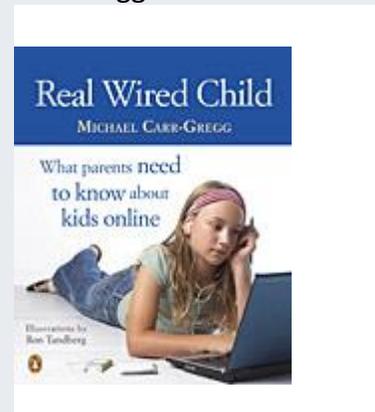
- **Facebook:** Facebook allows people to connect with their friends by sharing photos, status updates and chat. 13+
- **Instagram:** Instagram is a photo-sharing app. People comment on photos and socialise via the photos posted. 13+
- **Twitter:** A microblogging site that allows users to share messages of 140 characters or less. 13+
- **Qoohme:** A question and answer site that allows people to ask you questions anonymously. Whilst people believe they are posting their questions anonymously, the posts can in fact be traced. The site says it is suitable for all ages, however there is no monitoring or ability to regulate posts.
- **Formspring:** A question and answer site. It relies on users deleting questions they find offensive. 13+
- **Ask.fm:** A question and answer site. Users also post anonymously. 13+
- **Tumblr:** A microblogging and social media site. The site features a high amount of adult content. 13+
- **Myspace:** A social networking site with a strong emphasis on music. The site had been rarely used but has recently been relaunched. 13+
- **Snapchat:** A photo messaging app that allows users to take photos, record videos, add text and

There are a range of resources available for parents that you may find helpful:



<http://www.connectsafely.org/>
<http://www.bewebsmart.com/>
<http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/>
<http://cybersmartparents.global2.vic.edu.au/2014/06/27/its-time-to-change-our-parenting-habits-around-electronic-devices/>
<http://www.netsmartz.org/Parents>
http://www.staysmartonline.gov.au/your_identity

Real Wired Child – Dr Michael CarrGregg





drawings. They then send this to recipients. The message is only viewable for up to 10 seconds before it disappears. Whilst they are no longer viewable, they are permanently saved on the company's server. 13+, with users aged between 13-17 advised to receive parental permission prior to using.

- **Kik:** An instant messaging app, that uses data or Wifi to send and receive messages - this avoids the cost of sending a text message. Parents should be wary of Kik as it has a history of being used for sexting. 17+
- **Viber:** Allows users to send free messages, photos, make video calls, and have group conversations. 13+
- **Reddit:** A message board style social media that allows people to post links, photos and comments. 13+
- **Vine:** A Twitter product that acts similar to Instagram video. 17+
- **Quora:** A question and answer site. 13+

What to do as a parent?

We are encouraging all parents to:

- Discuss social media with your child. Find out what apps and websites they are using. Make sure to research these and decide what you believe is appropriate for their use.
- Make sure your child is aware that what is posted on the internet stays on the internet. Today's children are growing up in a very public way and may not be aware that the posts they make, pictures they send and questions they ask will always be available.
- Make sure your children know that the real world and digital world have the same sets of rules. Let them know that what they say on the internet is the same as saying it directly to someone.

We regularly discuss cyber safety with our students at The Knox School. Our pastoral programs regularly look at issues surrounding the internet and using the various social media platforms safely. If there are ever any concerns regarding cyber safety, we encourage families to immediately contact your child's teacher.

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