

# ON LINE SAFETY

**ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE**



# COVID 19

**DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME WHEN VIRTUAL SCHOOLING IS TAKING PLACE AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE EXCESSIVE INTERNET ACCESS IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ADULTS SPEAK TO YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT THE DANGERS OF ONLINE PREDATORS AND BETTER PREPARE THEM FOR THE DANGERS OF ONLINE ACTIVITY**

**WHILST SCHOOLS ARE FORCED TO CLOSE THERE IS AN INCREASED RISK OF YOUNG PEOPLE BEING GROOMED ONLINE INTO MAKING EXPLICIT VIDEOS OF THEMSELVES.**

**DID YOU KNOW;**

**ANY DEVICE THAT HAS INTERNET CONNECTIVITY AND ALLOWS FOR EMAIL, MESSAGING SERVICES, AND /OR APP AND GAMING USAGE IS CAPABLE OF BEING USED TO SEND AND SHARE IMAGES.**

**THE MOST POPULAR DEVICES USED FOR MESSAGING/SEXTING ARE MOBILE PHONES FOLLOWED BY PC AND TABLETS**

**THE GREATEST THREAT IS FROM ADULTS BEFRIENDING USERS, IMPERSONATION ONLY ACCOUNTS FOR 5% OF ONLINE PREDATOR CASES.**

# ON LINE GROOMING

- **ONLINE GROOMING IS WHEN A PERSON IS TRICKED, PERSUADED OR FORCED INTO DOING SOMETHING THEY WOULD NOT NORMALLY DO.**
- **THE GOAL OF THE PREDATOR IS TO MEET THE VICTIM IN A SETTING THEY CONTROL TO ABUSE THE VICTIM SEXUALLY OR PHYSICALLY.**
- **SOCIAL MEDIA, APPS GAMING SITES, DIRECT MESSAGING SITES AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE ONLINE WORLD FACILITATES THE SPEED OF OFFENDING.**
- **ON LINE STRANGERS (A FRIEND OF A FRIEND IS ALSO A STRANGER) CAN BE FOUND ON SOCIAL MEDIA, GAMING SITES, APPS AS APPS AND SITES REQUIRE THE USER TO ENTER THEIR OWN INFORMATION WHEN SIGNING UP**
- **SEXUAL GROOMING IS MOTIVATED BY IMAGES AND JUSTIFIED BY ONLINE BEHAVIOUR**
- **REFERRALS TO THE METROPOLITAN POLICE IN 2018 OF SUSPECTED ONLINE SEXUAL ABUSE INCREASED 700% FROM 2014**
- **DURING LOCKDOWN THE NUMBER OF CHILDLINE COUNSELLING SESSIONS ABOUT GROOMING WENT UP**

# ON LINE GROOMING CAN TAKE PLACE

- **IN CLOSED GROUPS**
- **DIRECT MESSAGING IN GAMES**
- **DIRECT MESSAGING IN APPS**
- **MESSAGING AND INTERACTIONS**
- **MICROPHONES**
- **WEBCAMS**

**A PREDATOR CAN USE WEBSITES, GAMING SITES AND APPS, CHAT ROOMS , VIDEO GAMES COMMUNITIES TO GAIN ACCESS TO POSSIBLE VICTIMS**

# RELATIONSHIPS ARE FORMED DIFFERENTLY IN PERSON (OFF LINE) AND ON LINE

## OFF LINE

1. FRIENDSHIPS ARE FORMED
2. RELATIONSHIPS ARE FORMED
3. WE ASSESS ANY RISKS
4. EXCLUSIVE
5. SEXUAL PHASE

## • ONLINE

1. THERE IS NO NEED FOR THE FRIENDSHIP FORMING STAGE . ALL INFORMATION HAS ALREADY BEEN SHARED
2. THERE IS NO NEED TO FORM A RELATIONSHIP AS BY VIRTUE THAT WE ARE CHATTING, PLAYING THE SAME GAME, USING THE SAME MEDIUM TO COMMUNICATE A RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN FORMED
3. NO NEED TO ASSESS RISK AS THE INTERNET OFFERS ANONYMITY
4. EXCLUSIVITY IS OFFERED
5. SEXUAL PHASE USING FOR EXAMPLE A SOCIAL MEDIA APP OR WEB CAM



# GROOMING PROCESS











- **A VICTIM IS IDENTIFIED – COULD BE ANY ONE**
- **TRUST AND ACCESS IS GAINED – ITS EASY TO LIE ON LINE**
- **A ROLE FOR THEMSELVES IS IDENTIFIED IN THE VICTIMS LIFE – ONLINE GIRLFRIEND/BOYFRIEND  
(STRANGER)**
- **SECRECY AROUND THE RELATIONSHIP IS CREATED, DIRECT MESSAGING – DISCORD, WHATSAPP, ETC.**
- **SEXUAL CONTACT - WEBCAM, SEXTING AND IMAGES SHARED**
- **THE PREDATOR BEGINS TO ISOLATE THE YOUNG PERSON FROM FRIENDS AND FAMILY OR USES THREATS**

# WHICH OF THESE DO YOU OR YOUR CHILD HAVE? ARE YOU AWARE OF THE AGE RESTRICTIONS AND PRIVACY SETTINGS?











## The Most Downloaded Apps

Based on Global Estimated Downloads · November 2020

### App Store

1.  **TikTok \***  
TikTok Pte. Ltd.
2.  **YouTube: Watch, Listen, Stre...**  
Google LLC
3.  **Instagram**  
Instagram, Inc.
4.  **WhatsApp Messenger**  
WhatsApp Inc.
5.  **Gmail - Email by Google**  
Google LLC
6.  **Facebook \***  
Facebook, Inc.
7.  **ZOOM Cloud Meetings**  
Zoom
8.  **Messenger \***  
Facebook, Inc.
9.  **Google Maps - Transit & Food**  
Google LLC
10.  **Snapchat**  
Snap, Inc.

### Google Play

1.  **WhatsApp Messenger**  
WhatsApp Inc.
2.  **Telegram**  
Telegram FZ-LLC
3.  **TikTok \***  
TikTok Pte. Ltd.
4.  **Facebook \***  
Facebook
5.  **Instagram**  
Instagram
6.  **ZOOM Cloud Meetings**  
zoom.us
7.  **Snapchat**  
Snap Inc
8.  **Messenger – Text and Video ...**  
Facebook
9.  **SnackVideo**  
Symphony Tech Pte. Ltd.
10.  **Google Meet - Secure Video ...**  
Google LLC

\* Includes downloads of lite and regional versions.



# QUESTIONS ADULTS SHOULD ASK ABOUT THE APPS BEING USED

- **WHAT AGE ARE USER REQUIRED TO BE?**
- **DOES THE GAME/SOCIAL MEDIA APP HAVE DIRECT MESSAGING OR CHAT CAPABILITIES?**
- **ARE USERS LIVE STREAMING?**
- **DOES THE GAME/SOCIAL MEDIA APP HAVE ANY PARENTAL CONTROLS OR FILTERS?**
- **DOES THE GAME/SOCIAL MEDIA APP USE LOCATION TRACKING? GPS IS OFTEN USED BY PARENTS/CARERS TO HELP TRACK YOUNG PEOPLE TO ENSURE THEY ARE SAFE. PREDATORS CAN USE GPS TO TRACK WHERE MESSAGES ARE BEING SENT FROM. WHEN AT HOME GPS SHOULD BE TURNED OFF**

# IMPORTANT

- **ENSURE YOUR CHILD ONLY MESSAGES, INTERACTS AND ENGAGES WITH TRUE FRIENDS. A FRIEND OF A FRIEND IS A STRANGER**
- **DON'T LET YOUR CHILD SHARE PERSONAL INFORMATION**
- **ENCOURAGE THEM TO BE KIND ON LINE- AS THEY WOULD BE AT HOME OR AT SCHOOL**
- **HAVE SECURITY SETTINGS IN PLACE.**
- **MONITOR YOUR CHILD SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY BY FOLLOWING THEM ON SOCIAL MEDIA , BECOMING 'FRIENDS' OR BEING PRESENT WHEN THEY ARE USING SOCIAL MEDIA.**
- **WHEN AT HOME IT IS ADVISABLE TO HAVE LOCATION SERVICES ON APPS OR PHONES DISABLED.**
- **USE A SCREEN NAME AND PROFILE PICTURE THAT HIDES YOUR CHILD'S IDENTITY. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PARENTS ARE INVOLVED AT THIS STAGE TO KEEP USAGE IN CHECK BY PASSIVELY WATCHING.**
- **MONITOR YOUR CHILD'S ONLINE ACTIVITY.**
- **KNOW THE POSSIBLE SIGNS THAT SOMETHING IS WRONG: CHANGES IN BEHAVIOUR, MISSING FROM HOME OR SCHOOL, INCREASE IN MOBILE PHONE USAGE, UNEXPLAINED GIFTS, EXCESSIVE TIME ONLINE, MORE UPSET WHEN THEY CAN'T GET ONLINE, CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR.**
- **IF YOU ARE WORRIED OR CONCERNED SPEAK TO THE DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD AT SCHOOL – MRS JONES**
- **SPEAK TO OTHER PARENTS**
- **REPORT TO THE POLICE**