

**GREEN ZONE: Here are the few apps Jonathan Taylor considers to be safe for teens and young adults:**

Social Media can be a dangerous place for teens. However, these apps are the “lesser of three evils” as they can be used to help a student (**14+ years of age**) shine online to impress colleges and future employers. When used appropriately, these apps will help students adjust their Google results to create a portfolio of positive online accomplishments. If students want to have a profile on these networks/apps, please consider having a dialogue with them and knowing that these networks are the place to start on social media. At the bottom there is a list of bad apps (red zone) that you should prevent or even **not** allow your children & young adults to access/have/use.

**Facebook (Age: 13+)** Facebook aims to give people the power to share and make the world more open and connected. Kids tend to share personal information on their Facebook profile. Parents and children must be aware that this information is often visible for college / university admissions officers, and future employers when they search for them.

**Facebook Messenger (13+)** Facebook messenger (owned by Facebook) allows you to chat with anyone on Facebook. To initiate a conversation with users you need to add them to your Facebook friend list. Jonathan suggests parents add their children onto their Facebook and monitor who they are adding as friends closely.

**Instagram (13+)** Instagram is a free photo sharing application that allows users to take photos, apply a filter, and share it on the service or other social networking services. This app is great for showcasing one's accomplishments and adventures. However, kids need to be careful with what pictures they post.

**LinkedIn (14+)** LinkedIn is the world's largest professional network. It is an important tool for teens that want to improve their Google results when applying to college. It is the best place to start an online image to impress colleges / university and future employers.

**Pinterest (13+)** Pinterest is a visual discovery tool that helps users find and save ideas. It's a great source of inspiration for students. They can use Pinterest to find studying tips, DIY's and more. Kids can have fun on Pinterest, as soon as they pin pictures that are light, bright and polite.

**Twitter (13+)** Twitter is an online social network, which allows you to send messages up to 140 characters in length. This is a good app for kids to share their thoughts and feelings. However, kids and parents must be aware that anyone can view what is posted if their account is public.

**You Tube (13+)** YouTube is a free platform for watching and uploading videos, and is owned by Google. Positive videos can turn a student's Google results into a three dimensional version of their college resume. YouTube also has a multitude of educational videos you can learn from.

**GREY ZONE: These apps can be good (and bad) for your teens and young adults.**

Jonathan recommends you always have a dialogue with your kids about Sexy Selfies (Sexting) and inappropriate content if your kids have these apps. Although some people are very scared of Snapchat and Vine, he isn't against them (since there are more inappropriate apps that kids could be using). Every parent should put in the time each month to have a dialogue with their kids about the apps they are using. This is the best way to keep your kids safe.

**Houseparty App (Age: 14+)** From the creators of Meerkat (an early Periscope competitor), Houseparty is a video chat app that lets teens video chat with 2-8 people at the same time. All chats are unmoderated which means students can come in contact with inappropriate content or cyberbullies.

**Minecraft (7+)** Minecraft is the best selling PC game of all time. While Minecraft may be used for educational purposes, players can encounter bullying, inappropriate content and even viruses when playing this game

**Musical.ly (13+)** Musical.ly is a popular app that lets users create lip-syncing videos to their favourite songs. While this app may be fun for teens it may be scary for tweens due to the adult content that can be found on this app.

**Periscope (13+) (Owned by Twitter)** Periscope is a location based app. It allows users to watch and broadcast real time videos. It's easy to find your kids on Periscope if you know their Twitter usernames. Some teens get in trouble using the Periscope app.

**Pokemon Go (9+)** Pokémon Go is an augmented-reality mobile game for iOS and Android devices. While quickly becoming one of the most popular apps of all time, it has raised some safety concerns.

**SMS Text Messaging Age (No age limits)** SMS text messaging is one of the primary apps that each phone has. All accounts are connected to phone numbers. SMS messenger is relatively safe for students – trackable and least difficult for parents to monitor.

**Snapchat (13+)** Snapchat is a messaging service that allows people to send photos and short videos to each other that disappear seconds after opening them. A major concern with Snapchat is how teen Snapchat users use the app, since parents are not on it and content disappears.

**Vine (17+) (Owned by Twitter Closed in 2016)** Vine is owned by Twitter and was a 6 second video sharing app. Kids often post videos of their everyday life and blunders. Kids want popularity, so they try to collect more views and reviews from friends and strangers.

## Jonathan Taylor's App Guide

**WhatsApp Messenger (Age: 16+)** WhatsApp is a mobile messenger that is similar to short message services. Users can share location and contacts with other users. WhatsApp helps kids bypass text messaging and communicate with their friends using the app.

**Roblox Age (8+ according to Roblox)** ROBLOX is a user-generated gaming platform where you can create your own games or play games that other users have made. There is also the option to chat to other players. 16% of the children and young people who reviewed ROBLOX thought that it can be risky, it allows In-app purchases, being able to talk to strangers, people you don't know adding you. Popular because of the range of games, playing with other people, creating your own games and character. It is easy to set the privacy settings and the default security settings for under 13s are strong but you need to monitor. 36% of young people who reviewed ROBLOX said they know how to change their privacy settings on this site. 20% said they know how to turn off their location settings.

**RED ZONE: ANONYMOUS APPS – Here are the apps Jonathan Taylor considers NOT safe for Teens and Young Adults.**

These apps usually have inappropriate and un-moderated content. Also, they lend themselves to online bullying. Often these apps are anonymous and will encourage students to behave in a way we have never seen before. When students use an app in anonymous mode (without it being tied to their real identity) they tend to behave badly. They are also more prone to bullying and predators in this zone.

**After School App (Age: 17+)** AfterSchool App is an anonymous app that creates a separate chat group for every school. It has been removed twice from the AppStore because of threats and arrests. Messages often include bullying, pornography, and alcohol or drug references.

**Ask.fm (13+)** Ask.fm is a social networking website where people can ask questions, with the option of anonymity. Kids often reveal too much personal information on this site, and cyberbullying is very prevalent.

**BurnBook (18+)** BurnBook is an anonymous app for posting text, photos and audio rumour messages about others. The app compiles messages by school, so the app requires access to your location. It encourages students to screenshot the rumours and save them to their phone, which causes bullying issues.

**Calculator% Private Photo App (4+)** The "Private Photo (Calculator%)" app is designed to help students hide photos and videos behind an innocent looking calculator app. This application looks like a calculator but entering a passcode opens a private area.

**Finstagram (13+)** Finstagram (Finsta) is a fake (or second) Instagram account. Students get a second Instagram account along with their real Instagrams (Rinstagrams), to post silly pictures or videos.

**Kik Messenger (17+)** Kik allows anyone on the app to contact your child and directly message them. It has been known to allow adults to communicate with preteens, and is very difficult to discern who is a predator and who is real. Some adults have been known to use this app to pretend like they are tweens and teens. Kik allows students to bypass text messaging features of their phone. Users can connect with anyone on the network and aren't limited to their phone's contact list.

**Ogle (17+)** Ogle is an anonymous app that automatically searches your location for nearby schools when downloaded. View and interact with school feeds, engage on any campuses content, and share or ask anything anonymously. Since there is little formal registration, bullies and predators can easily masquerade as students and friends.

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**Omegle (Age: 18+)** Omegle is an anonymous text and video chat room that connects strangers to talk with each other. The app allows you to share personal information, and also contains inappropriate and un-moderated content.

**OoVoo (13+)** ooVoo is one of the world's largest video and messaging apps. Parents should be aware that ooVoo is used by predators to contact underage kids. The app can allow users to video chat with up to twelve people at one time.

**Phhphoto App (12+)** Phhphoto is a camera app that shoots moving pictures that continually loop to make short movies. Photo sharing apps can impact a student's digital footprint.

**Secret (17+)** Secret is an app that allows people to share messages anonymously within their circle of friends, friends of friends, and publicly. Students often hide behind the anonymity when posting, and forget that anonymous does not mean untraceable.

**Slingshot App (13+)** Slingshot is a comparison app, marketed to boys, that allows users to vote or create polls. Slingshot users can create any type of poll, including polls that are not appropriate for teens. This app is popular with students, and the comment section is used to bully other students.

**Street Chat (14+)** StreetChat is a live photo-sharing board designed for middle school, high school and college students. Kids feel more freedom to send mean posts because they do not have to confirm their identity within the app. This leads to students often posting about real people.

**Tumblr (13+)** Tumblr is one of the world's most popular blogging platforms. Users tend not to use their real names, so it can be hard to find blogs without knowing a specific username. All accounts are public and content goes unmonitored.

**Whats Goodly (17+)** WhatsGoodly is an anonymous, location-based, social polling application designed for college students. It has a 17+ age restriction, but younger students can still see polls and vote. There are a lot of questions about dating, relationships, alcohol, and smoking on the app.

**Whisper (17+)** Whisper is an anonymous social network that allows people to express themselves. Whisper reveals a user's location, which makes it easy for people to arrange to meet up. This also makes it easier for predators to locate and connect with users.

**Wishbone (13+)** Wishbone is a comparison app, marketed to girls, that allows users to vote or create polls. Wishbone users can create any type of poll, including polls that are not appropriate for teens. This app is popular with students, and the comment section is used to bully other students.

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**Yik Yak (Age: 18+)** Yik Yak acts like a local bulletin board for your area by showing the most recent posts from other users around you. The app is popular with high school students, and it is often used to harm the self esteem of fellow students.

**You Now (13+)** YouNow is a popular broadcasting platform where kids watch and stream real-time videos. Users decide whether broadcasters should continue their live videos with thumbs up and thumbs down voting. Anyone can record the videos posted, take screenshots and bully others with the recordings.

**Jott Messenger App (13+)** Jott Messenger is an app that allows students to send messages without a data plan or a WiFi connection. Jott messenger creates a closed network with other devices (usually using a direct bluetooth signal) and can reach other users up to 100-feet. Like Snapchat, Jott includes a "self-destructing" feature that lets the user decide when a message, photo, or video will disappear

**Wattpad (17+)** Wattpad is a relatively unmoderated online storytelling community. One of the major concerns with Wattpad is that teens are posting explicit and inappropriate stories that are connected to their personal Facebook profiles (and shows their profile photo).

**Yellow (No Age Limit)** Tinder-like aimed at teenagers, like Tinder, users can connect with strangers by swiping right on their profile picture. When both users mutually 'like' each other they can chat by adding each other on picture-messaging service Snapchat. But unlike dating app Tinder - which raised its minimum age to 18 this summer after charities said paedophiles could use it to groom children - Yellow does not have checks in place to verify ages. Yellow is putting young people at risk of predators by having no checks on users.

**Tinder App (18+)** *Tinder is a dating app, marketed to adults, that allows users to connect with other Tinder users. Despite the app increasing it's age restrictions children are still accessing, parents need to be aware.*