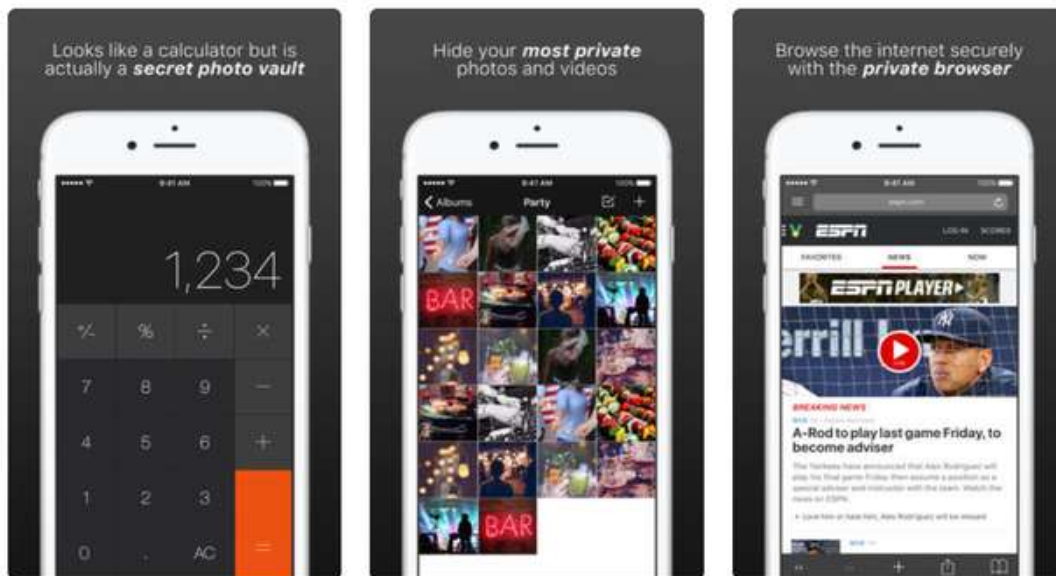


The top 10 apps that police want parents to know about

1. Calculator App lock



This app might look like a calculator but they actually function as a secret photo vault (Image: Calculator App lock)

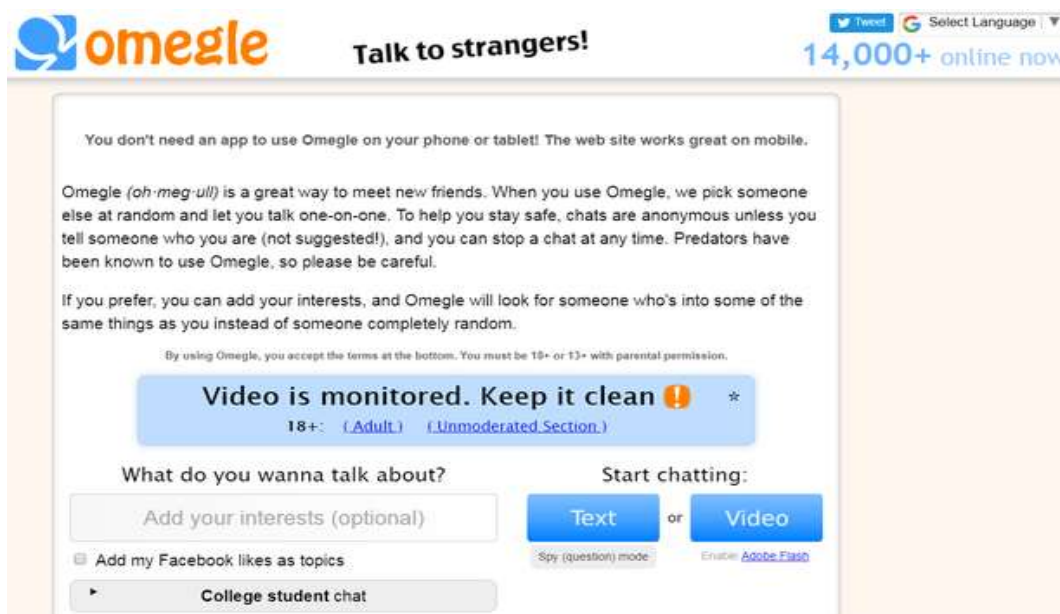
There's a lot more to this app than meets the eye.

This app hides your most private photos and videos in plain sight - disguised as a humble calculator.

You can also use it to write and store private notes and securely surf the internet with a private browser.

Other apps with similar settings include Secret Calculator Vault and Calculator + Photo Lock Vault.

2. Omegle

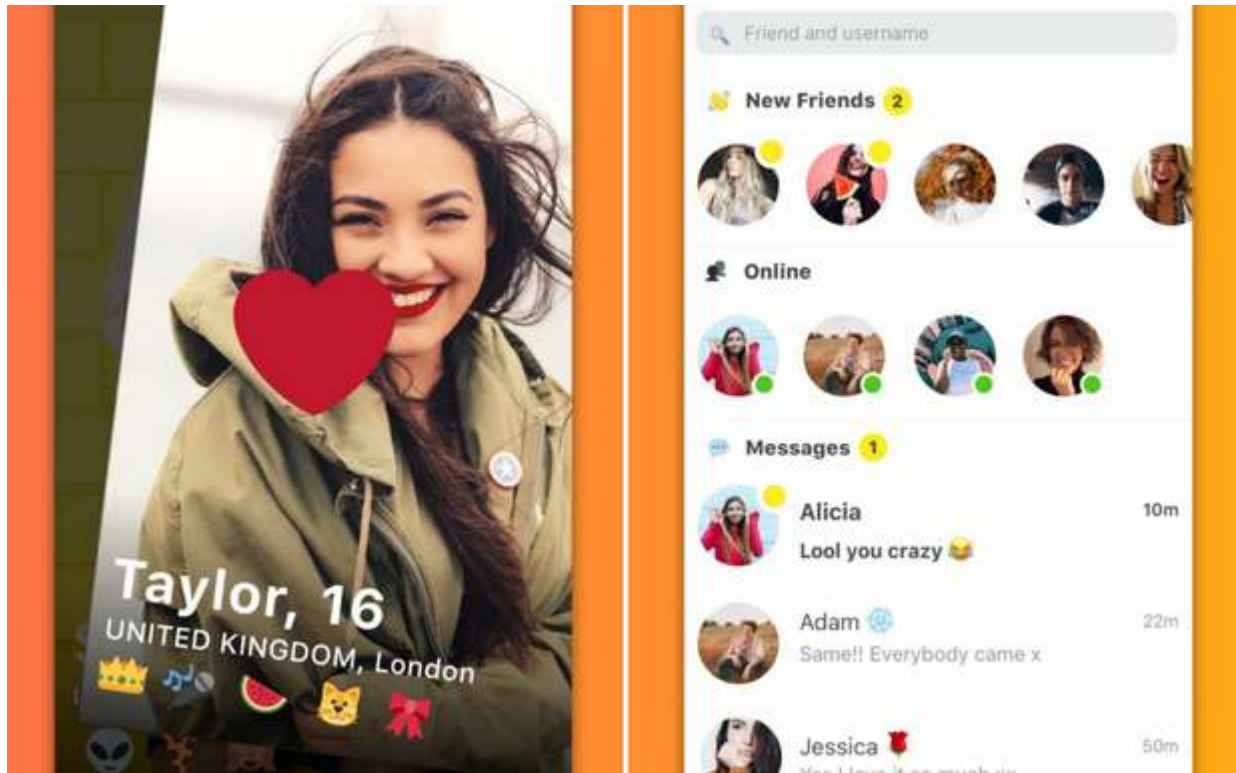


Omegle has been described as a free online chat website that "promotes chatting anonymously to strangers".

Launched in 2009, it randomly pairs users in one-on-one chat sessions where they can chat anonymously to people all around the world.

The site now provides a mobile app that lets users chat with strangers from mobile devices.

3. Yubo (formerly called Yellow)



Yubo has been described as a type of Tinder for teens app (Image: Yubo)

This app has had quite a lot press in the past as a Tinder for teens.

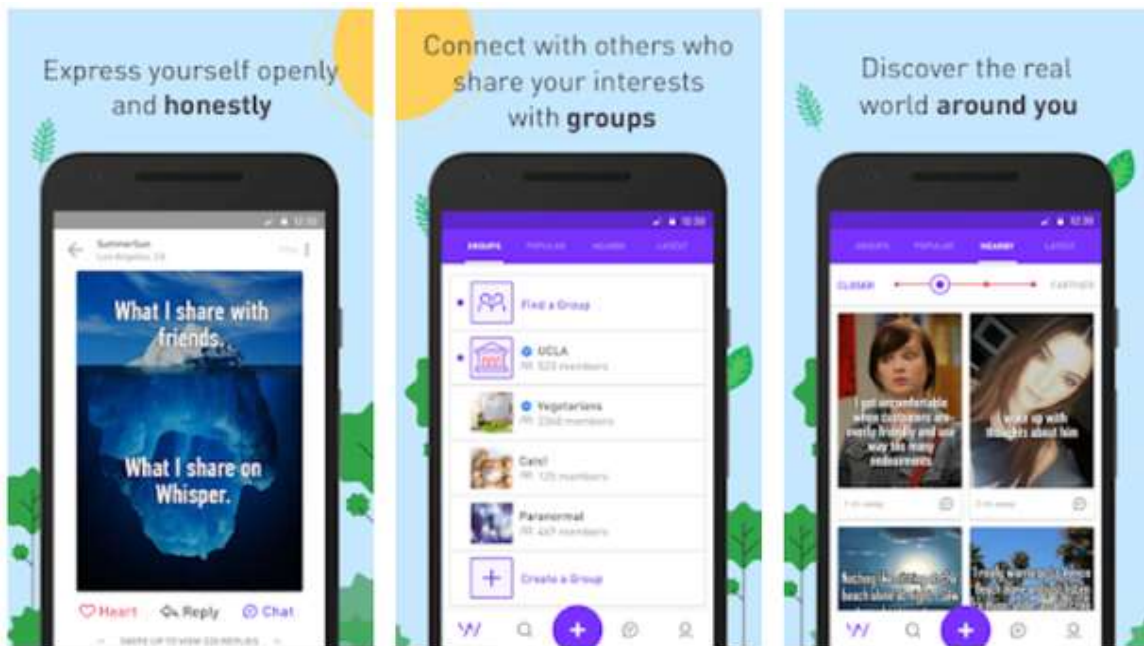
Ms Requard said: "This app is designed to allow teens to flirt with each other in a Tinder-like atmosphere."

Yubo, which was previously called Yellow, has been criticised for encouraging young users to swap texts and photos with nearby strangers.

Its users are also able to 'swipe' other users that they are interested in and swap selfies with each other.

The app has been criticised due to concerns that the photo-based dating app could be used to trade naked pictures.

4. Whisper



Whisper has been described as an "anonymous app where the creators promote sharing secrets and meeting new people".

The service allows users to post and share private photo and video messages completely anonymously.

The posts, known as 'whispers', consist of text superimposed over an image - which can be uploaded or selected from an in-app search engine.

The app was launched in 2012 and now has 250 million monthly users across 187 countries.

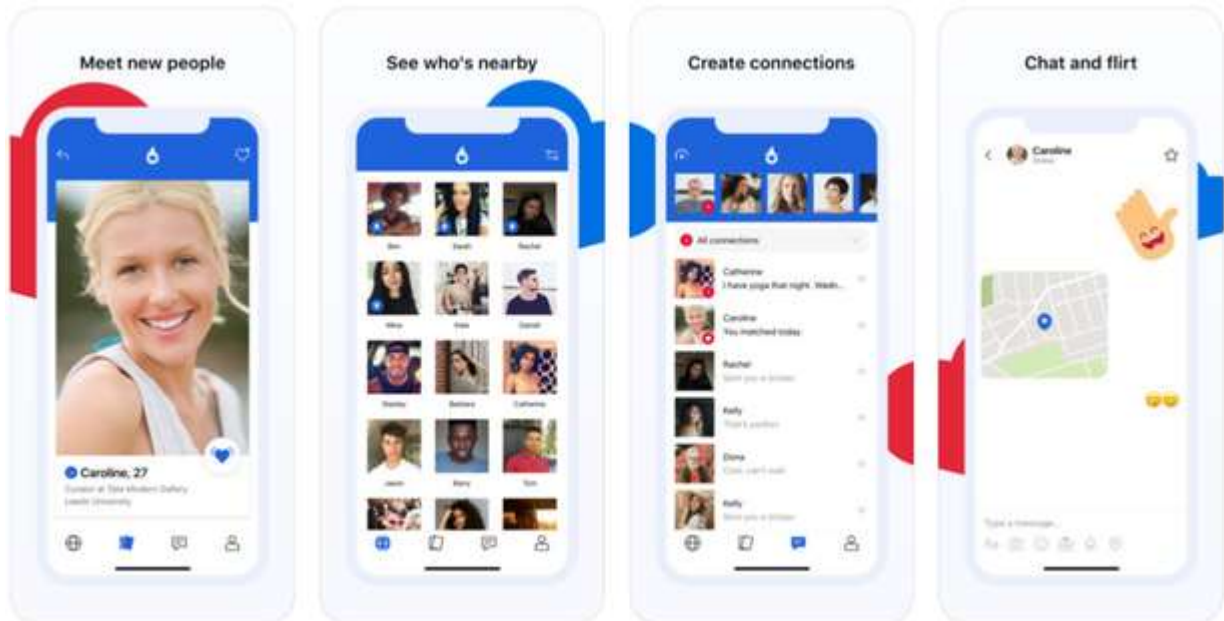
5. Ask.fm



Ask.fm is a social networking site where users can create profiles and send each other questions.

Ms Requard claimed that the app has been "linked to the most severe forms of cyberbullying" as it allowed users to ask and answer questions anonymously. The site, which was launched in 2010, came under fire following the deaths of two English teenagers who killed themselves after they were bullied on the site. Former Prime Minister David Cameron later called for a boycott of websites that did not take responsibility for cyberbullying on their sites.

6. Hot or Not



(Image: Hot or Not)

Hot or Not is a game where you upload your best pictures and get rated by other users. Ms Requard said: "Strangers rate your profile. The goal is to lead to a hook up." The aim of the game is to rate people in your area and let them rate you in return. The app will let you see how 'hot' your friends are and view a list of the hottest people nearby.

7. Burnbook



An app that allows you to spread gossip about people anonymously (Image: BurnBook)

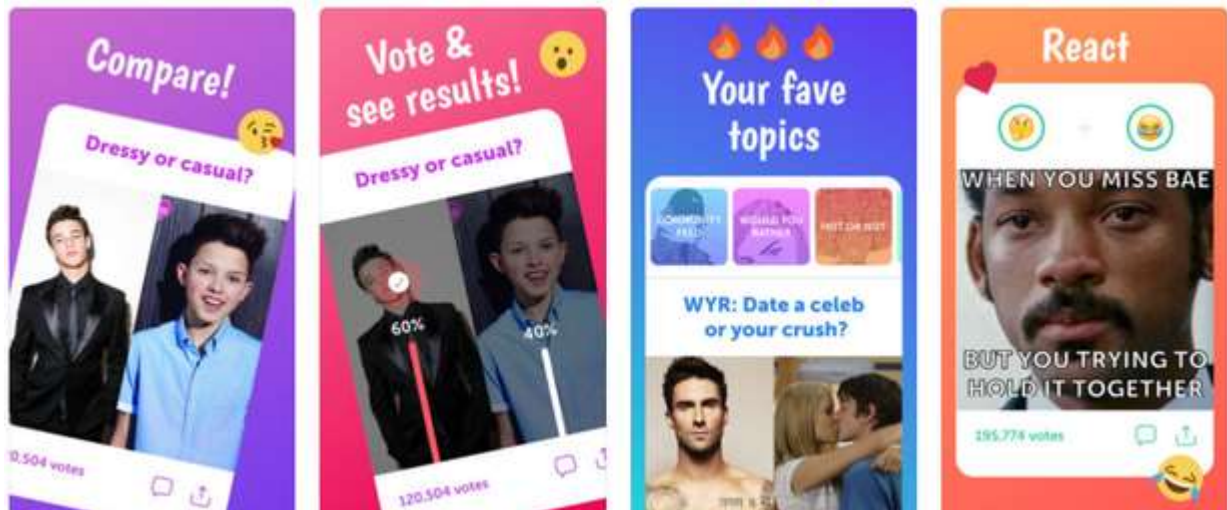
Burnbook is an anonymous gossip app that is named after the book in the teen movie Mean Girls.

It allows you to post anonymous rumours about people through audio, messages, texts and photos.

Users can download the app phones for free, search for school “communities” within 10 miles, and share text, photo, and audio messages with other community members.

It is worth noting that this app may have been removed from Itunes and Google Play following complaints.

8. Wishbone

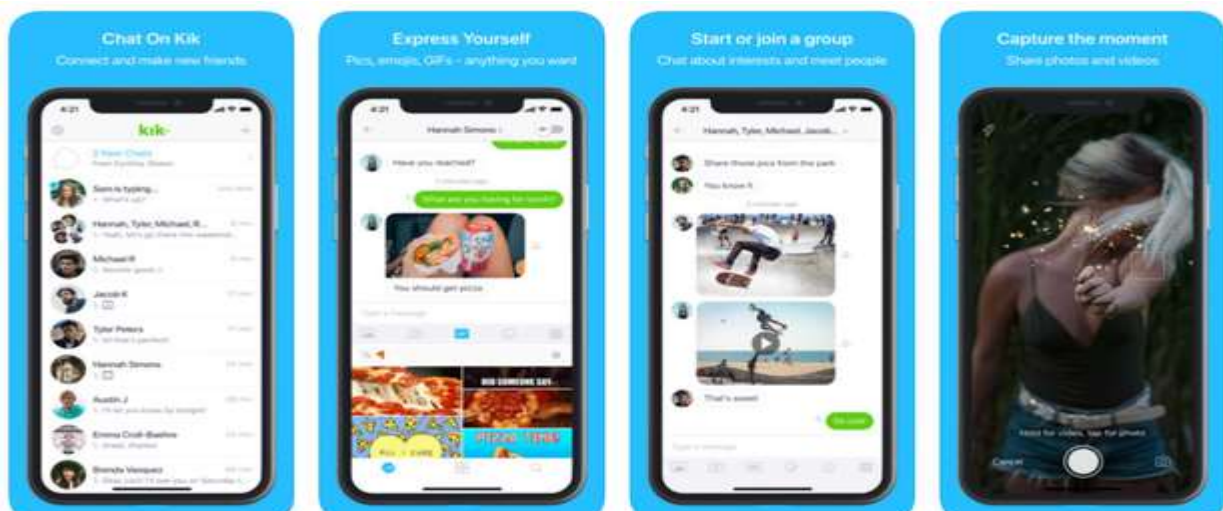


Wishbone is an app that allows you to compare other people's children and rate them (Image: Wishbone)

Wishbone is a controversial comparison app that allows users to compare whatever they want to.

Ms Requard said she was concerned about it because it "allows users to compare kids against each other and rate them on a scale."

9. Kik Messenger



Kik is a free instant messaging mobile app that allows users to send and receive messages, photos, videos and mobile web pages. (Image: Kik Messenger)

Kik is a free instant messaging mobile app that allows users to send and receive messages, photos, videos and mobile web pages.

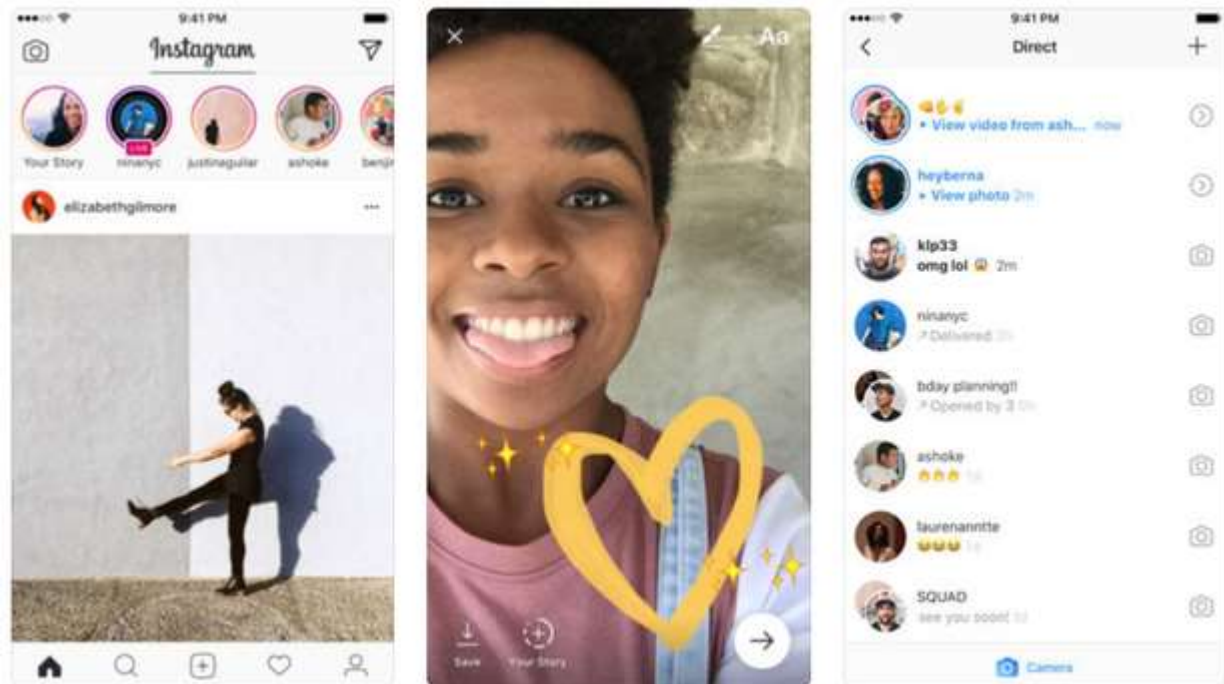
You can also join special groups and video chat using the app.

Kik is known for its features preserving users' anonymity, such as allowing users to register without providing a telephone number.

Mr Requard said: "Kik has in built apps and web content that would be filtered on the home computer."

In 2016, Kik had around 300 million registered users.

10. Instagram



Instagram allows you to share pictures (Image: Instagram)

Instagram, now owned by Facebook, is a photo and video-sharing social networking service that is owned by Facebook.

The app, which was launched in 2010, allows people to upload pictures and videos, follow other users and 'like' and comment on their feed.

Users can also post daily 'stories' and message each other privately.

Ms Requard said Instagram is dangerous because it allows users to use more than one account.

She said: "Many social media platforms allow for more than one user account.

"Children will use one profile to interact with their friends and the other one is their "angel" account where they'd only post what they'd want their grandmother to see.

"In Instagram, children call it a "finsta" which means "fake Instagram" account."

She also said that children are more likely to use this app to message each other, as it is easy to delete private messages.