**Internet Safety and Young People  
  
What is available on the Internet and the challenges this presents , is constantly evolving & changing. It is important to keep upto date and current.** Below is a list of sites and information that will be helpful in helping Parishes, communities, and whanau understand what children and young people are having to navigate on the internet

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| **POLICE  NZ** | <https://www.police.govt.nz/advice/cybercrime-and-internet/online-child-safety> |  |
| **NETSAFE  NZ Based** | **Netsafe** is New Zealand's independent, non-profit online safety organisation.  They provide online safety support, expertise and education to people in New Zealand. **Netsafe** was founded in 1998 to help New Zealand internet users stay safe online.  <https://www.netsafe.org.nz/online-safety-for-parents/> for advice, what to talk to young people about  and a plan to develop with your child/young person | Free Phone:  0508 638 723   Queries? [help@netsafe.org.nz](mailto:help@netsafe.org.nz)  Concerns? Report to netsafe.org.nz/report |
| **Input on why our children and  young people are at risk  and advice on what to do.** | A NZ article from organisation KIWIFAMILIES  <https://www.kiwifamilies.co.nz/articles/internet-safety/>  An article from NZ Police  <https://www.police.govt.nz/advice/cybercrime-and-internet/online-child-safety>  Advice from Parenting Place  <https://www.theparentingplace.com/technology/keeping-your-kids-cyber-safe/>  Advice on howe to keep safe <https://www.whoishostingthis.com/resources/e-safety/> |  |
| **NetsmartZ USA Based** | This link has a summary and information of the most used Apps that can be dangerous for our children and Young people. <https://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/resources> Check out :  <https://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/resources#tipsheets> Specific detailed tip sheets that are aimed at different groups of people and are really helpful  Very relevant to what the children and young people in NZ have access to, and what many are doing without adults realising |  |

**Police are specifically saying parents and teens should know two things:**1. Once a picture or video leaves your phone and is sent to someone else, it is out of your control  
2. Someone can use that picture or video against you.

**15 APP’s to be aware of:**

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| **MeetMe** | A dating social media app that connects people based on location. Users are encouraged to meet in person. |
| **WhatsApp** | A messaging app that allows texts, video calls, photo sharing and voicemails with users worldwide. |
| **Bumble** | Similar to Tinder, but requires women to make the first contact. Children and young people are now creating fake accounts and falsify their age. This is confirmed with the Police |
| **Live.Me:** | A live-streaming app that uses geolocation to share videos. Police are saying users can earn "coins" to "pay" minors for photos of themselves |
| **Ask.FM** | This app lets users ask anonymous questions and although it has positive is being used by young people for cyberbullying. |
| **Grindr** | A dating app geared toward the LGBTQ community based on user location. |
| **Tik Tok** | A new app popular and lets users create and share short videos. This App has "very limited privacy controls" and users can be exposed to cyberbullying and explicit |
| **Holla** | This self-proclaimed "addicting" video chat app lets users meet people in seconds. Police say users have seen racial slurs and explicit content. |
| **Calculator+** | Police say this is one of several apps that are used to hide photos, videos, files and browser history. |
| **Snapchat** | One of the most popular social media apps in the world, Snapchat lets users take and share photos and videos. The app also lets people see your location. |
| **Kik** | Police say young people can bypass traditional text messaging features using this app. Kik "gives users unlimited access to anyone, anywhere, anytime. |
| **Whisper** | An anonymous social network that lets users share secrets with strangers. Police say it also shows users' location so people can meet up. |
| **Hot or Not** | The app lets users rate profiles, check out people in their area and chat with strangers. Police say the goal of the app is to hook up. Young people getting drawn in and using it as a tool for cyberbullying as well |
| **Skout** | A location-based dating app that is supposed to prohibit people under 17 from sharing private photos. However, police say children and young people can and are easily creating an account with a different age. |
| **Badoo** | A dating and social media app where users can chat and share photos and videos based on location. Police say the app is supposed to be for adults only, but they've seen teens create accounts. |

**Suggestions to help God get into the midst of all this**  
Most young people don’t see the internet as something they engage in rather it is a vital part of everyday living – like electricity is. Phones aren’t a luxury in their minds but an essential part of life. There are some awesome App’s to help connect us all with God and each other  
Some are listed below in Question 3

Here’s some questions that may be helpful in helping young people consider their faith journey in the midst of all this  
  
 1. What do you get out of it when you play ?  
 this game, watch this clip, surf youtube, listen to that, use that App?  
  
2. What are you learning about yourself? Others? How do you feel like you are growing?  
  
3. What are you learning about God as you use your phone, game or surf through the net?  
 If you aren’t learning about God   
 what are you doing to do to balance things so you have space to grow with Him too?   
   
 How many Apps are on your phone?  
 How many Apps help you grow or connect with God?   
 If you haven’t got any here’s some cool ones  
 Spend some time loading some together onto your phones   
 There’s heaps – here is a small range to choose from  
 Coming soon definitely worth putting on all our phones : An App from Waikato Diocese  
 Engage : Scripture Union - audio bible with daily questions and closing prayer   
 YouVersion : Daily verses sent out (can be in a picture form)   
 Can be used individually and can also create your own group   
 iDisciple Has Devotion, scripture, worship all together  
 Bible Lens Take a photo and App connects it to a scripture that matches  
 Dwell Audio bible verses  
 Common Prayer Daily Scriptures and Prayers with responses ( morning, noon, night)

Do you listen to Podcasts? What ones? Check out 21 elephants

4. The things you do online –encourage them to think these things through  
 - how do they make you feel about yourself?  
 - What do they teach you about violence or values and consequences?   
 - How dark is it and how do you feel afterwards?  
 - Do you feel you’re becoming or growing to be more like Jesus ?

**Bible Verses** Here’s an activity that can be done with groups of young people  
*using the online quiz tool* <https://kahoot.com/>   
*create a quiz thathelps them unpack their response to these verses*

Or for groups of young people or individuals   
  
*Check out some verses below,   
get them rank themselves 1-5 then over different sessions unpack and discuss the answers   
  
When I read these verses, and think about the way I’m living, using my phone, social media & App  
I rank the verse(s) like this*   
 1 = The App’s I’m using or way I use Social media hard out matches these bible verses  
 2 = some of what I’m using and doing connects with these bible verses   
 3 = What I’m using and doing is more neutral not building connections   
 but not pulling away either   
 4 = The way I’m working and what I’m using probably is not that great   
 5 = Now I stop and think about it I think I’ll uninstall the App or just stop doing it   
 6 = Yep it’s not good but I think I’m a bit addicted to it, not sure I can stop tbh

* **Matthew 28: 19-20**  
  Marks of Mission 1 and 2 are built on this scripture  
  Jesus told his apostles, “As you go, disciple all nations…”  
  *Comment:   
  This verse tells us to disciple other people wherever we go.  
   If we go across the oceans, we should look to make disciples  
   If we go across the street, we should be trying to make disciples  
  if we go online, we should seek to make disciples – how are we going with this?*
* **1 Timothy 4:12**   
  Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.  
  *What kind of example are you leaving with the App’s you use, what you post and view set? Do you follow and fit in or lead by example?*

* **Philippians 4:8-9**   
  Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable–if anything is excellent or praiseworthy–think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me–put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.  
  *How much time do I spend being quiet and even off social media?  
  when I am on social media what am I following or posting?*
* **1 Timothy 6:20**   
  O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you.   
  Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called “knowledge.”  
  *How am I going with that?*
* **1 John 2:15-18**   
  Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.  
  *How does this match up with the App’s I’m using and things I’m doing online?*
* Psalm 119:37   
  Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things;   
  and give me life in your ways.  
  *This can open a whole can of worms and pornography fits into this  
  See separate information, with advice specifically regarding young people and pornography.*
* 1 Corinthians 10:31   
  So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.  
  *How does this match up with the App’s I’m using and things I’m doing online?*
* Colossians 3:17   
  And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.  
  *How does this match up with the App’s I’m using and things I’m doing online?*
* Proverbs 4:23   
  Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.  
  *How does this match up with the App’s I’m using and things I’m doing online?*
* Ephesians 5 has a lot of verses that discussion can spring from  
  Verse 1: Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.  
  Verse 10: and find out what pleases the Lord.  
  Verse 17: Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is  
  *How does this match up with the App’s I’m using and things I’m doing online?*
* Matthew 6: 22 and Luke 11: 22  
  "The eyes are the windows to the soul”  
  *How does this match up with the App’s I’m using and things I’m doing online?  
  This passage can also open a whole can of worms and pornography fits into this too  
  See separate information, with advice specifically regarding young people and pornography.*