POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS APPS

	APP	DESCRIPTION	CONCERN
1.	Cunch-line Chronicles	It is a simple 2-dimensional game which promises users a realistic depiction of 'London gang life'. The game draws on themes such as UK gang culture, drug running, police chases, and trap houses (places were drugs are stored). Users essentially run through areas, jump over obstacles, deliver and collect drugs and escape police. 'Cunch' is a slang word for County, so the game is said to be based on the 'County Lines' phenomenon. The game was released in 2020 and has become popular with many young people throughout the UK.	Concerns that the content may glorify or normalise gang culture and criminal activity potentially influencing young people The game features adult themes and is not intended for children Cunch Lines has in-app purchases (these are connected to the store on your device) where users can buy and add extra points and new characters. In-app purchases are sold from the 'Trap House.' The NCA, VKPP and NCLCC are all aware of this app and the NCLCC is investigating whether any action can be done about it. It appears to have an in-chat facility which would enable grooming/recruitment and so hopefully action can be taken. This App appears to be available via the Iphone App store etc. Information from the National Police Chiefs' Council.
2.	Zoomerang	Zoomerang is one of the most popular apps right now. It is a simple video creator that allows you to capture short videos, apply filters, and add special effects and background music. You can then share these videos on social media. It is most popular for helping people create videos for Instagram and Tik Tok. Zoomerang is known for its simplified tutorials which make video creating and editing accessible to almost everyone, including younger kids with access to a child's iPhone or any mobile device.	One of the features that is cause for concern with Zoomerang is location tracking. This can allow online predators to see where your child is located when using the app. The Zoomerang app is rated E for Everyone, but as is the case anywhere where your child can share videos of themselves, there is risk involved. It is easy to screenshot portions of a video to manipulate them and to take brief moments out of context. Cyberbullying does occur regularly utilizing this tactic.
3.	TikTok	TikTok is an app for creating and sharing short videos. Users can create short music videos of 3 to 15 seconds and short looping videos of 3 to 60 seconds. It encourages users to express themselves creatively through video. Special effects can be added to the videos.	Thirteen is the minimum age, but there isn't a real way to validate age so anyone can download the app. Also, parents express concern that there is a lot of inappropriate language in the videos so it's not appropriate for young children. Lastly, by default, all accounts are set to public so strangers can contact your children.

4.	Parlor	Parlor shares that they are a social talking app and that their purpose is for people to have amazing conversations and to talk about the same thing with each other. It allows people to message with each other and share photos.	The Parlor app is becoming confused with Parler, an app that has recently been banned and one that has received extensive media coverage. There has been much concern as Parler was used by many for conversations about violence and guns, and due to the fact that plans for the U.S. Capitol insurrection had been shared within the app. Parler was cut from Amazon Web Services, and then both Google and Apple decided to stop distributing the app. This may be an app that pops up again and then is removed depending on the decisions of the tech companies, but either way, there has been enough violent and extremist views and planned shared via this app to cause concern for parents.
5.	Tellonym	This is an anonymous messenger app. It calls itself "the most honest place on the internet." This app is extremely popular in middle schools and high schools and it allows kids to ask and answer questions anonymously	It is a regular occurrence to see cyber bullying, violent threats, and sexual content. It also offers unmonitored access to the internet. The age restrictions are inconsistent ranging from 12 to 16, but this app is inappropriate for anyone younger than being in their late teens
6.	Houseparty	Houseparty is a video chatting app that's pretty open. Friends can communicate with each other through live video and texts in chat groups. It has become particularly popular throughout the COVID-19 pandemic as a way for tweens, teens, and adults to stay in touch and hang out while maintaining physical distance.	There's no screening and the video is live, so there's nothing to keep kids from inappropriate content. Users can send links via chat and even take screenshots. There's also nothing keeping friends of friends joining groups where they may only know one person.
7.	Ask.fm	This app allows users to interact in a question-and-answer format — with friends, peers, and anonymous users alike.	The app is rated ages 13+ and is most popular in Europe. Some kids have used the app for hurtful cyberbullying that has been linked to suicides. Lots of schools have sent home letters calling for students to stop using ask.fm because of its use in several cyberbullying incidents, and its loose regulation and lack of monitoring. The site added a button where users can report abuse, but this has not really helped.
8.	Mega	This is an end-to-end encrypted chat app that a lot of the younger children are moving to instead of WhatsApp.	Even though nothing untoward has been reported yet, it would be good for everyone to be aware of this app

9.	Kik Messenger	Kik is a mobile app that people can use to text with friends at high speed and with more of a "face-to-face feel" than regular texting (users' profile pictures appear in a little bubble next to their text, and they can quickly text photos, sketches, or even pre-designed greeting cards to individuals or groups).	The app is rated ages 17+, but there is no age verification so anyone can download it. Like some other instant messenger apps, Kik allows your teen to connect with others using just a username (rather than texting from her phone number). But it begs the question: Should teens be texting with people beyond their phone contacts? Reviews in the App Store and Google Play store reveal that many people use Kik to meet strangers for sexting. The app also been connected with cyberbullying.
10.	Telegram	This is an end-to-end encrypted chat app that a lot of the younger children are moving to instead of WhatsApp.	This app has been reported to be used for County Lines and the Police are aware. If students are using this app, then they need to be educated on the correct use of it.
11.	Voxer	This walkie-talkie PTT (push-to-talk) app allows users to quickly exchange short voice messages. They can have chats going on with multiple people at a time and just have to tap the play button to hear any messages they receive. Although it largely has an adult following, including some people who use it for their job, it's becoming popular among teens who enjoy its hybrid style of texting and talking.	Hurtful messages from cyberbullies can be even more biting when they're spoken and can be played repeatedly. Surprisingly, the app is rated ages 4+ in the App Store.
12.	Snapchat	Snapchat is an app that allows users to send photos and videos that disappear after they're received. It's rated ages 12+. The filters and special effects allow users to alter pictures.	Some kids are using the app to send racy pics because they believe the images can't be saved and circulated. But it turns out that Snapchat pics don't completely disappear from a device, and users can take a screenshot before an image vanishes in the app. "disappearing photo" apps like Snapchat might embolden kids to send more explicit photos and texts than they would have before through traditional texting.