

# SOCIAL MEDIA AND INTERNET SAFETY

Although the internet and social media can be a positive place to learn and stay connected, it can also prove to be harmful or unsafe in situations such as...

- Sharing of explicit content, for example, nudes
- Sharing login information with friends (leads to accounts getting 'hacked')
- Bullying
- Grooming

It's important to be aware of platforms that students are using, such as those below. Often bigger platforms like those mentioned have public pressure to moderate content and keep users safe, so they can often be the best platforms to interact on.

- Bullying can be relentless as it can happen away from school. Positivity in a group chat setting like shutting down the bully often works to neutralise the behaviour.
- Students love to use any social media that has a messaging function. Even games that have messaging functions have been the ones to go most viral eg. Fortnite.
- Anywhere there are kids there can be predators. Predators may find kids on larger platforms and then continue chatting on lesser known platforms eg. fitbit community
- Although the value offering of social media apps is to keep us connected, remember that they're still businesses themselves and need to make \$\$ (often through advertising).
- If apps like Instagram can keep people on the platform for as long as possible, it means they can show them more ads, and they make more \$\$\$. For that reason, these apps are set up to keep you scrolling or watching for as long as possible. That's why we're on them so much!
- Remember that as with anything in life, some people will take things to extremes eg social media and silly behaviour.
- Encourage older students to mentor younger students around internet safety.
- Ensure students are using 2-factor authentication to prevent login info to be used by others.



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## INSTAGRAM

Instagram is a free video and photo sharing APP. Users can share their content with everyone (public account) or with a select group of friends (private account).

Click [HERE](#) for Instagram safety information



## FACEBOOK

Facebook is the world's largest social network & makes it easy to connect and share with friends and family online. Students often only use FB cause they 'have to' eg. to get updates in groups about sport etc.

Click [HERE](#) for Facebook's Parents Portal



## MESSENGER

Messenger is Facebook's messaging tool, but can be downloaded as a standalone APP.

Click [HERE](#) for Messenger's privacy tips



## SNAPCHAT

Snapchat is a messaging and camera app that allows users to send content that disappears after viewing. The app also has features such as Maps that allows users to see where their friends are.

Click [HERE](#) for Snapchat Parent information



## WHATSAPP

WhatsApp allows users to send and receive a variety of media: text, photos, videos, documents etc. Messages and calls are secured with end-to-end encryption, meaning that no third party including WhatsApp can read or listen to them.

Click [HERE](#) for WhatsApp safety information



## TikTok

TikTok (previously Musically) is owned by large chinese company, ByteDance. The platform has recently fallen under scrutiny for security risks in countries such as the USA, Australia and was recently banned in India for the same reasons. It will be interesting to see the future of TikTok as it is still quite a 'new' platform but are growing rapidly. Instagram's Reels feature that was recently released in NZ is intended to be a competitor of TikTok, just as Instagram released their stories feature to copy Snapchat Stories in 2016.

Click [HERE](#) for TikTok parent resources

## WHAT RESOURCES ARE OUT THERE FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS?

It's best to approach online safety with a multi-layered approach. Education is important, and so are taking preventative measures such as N4L in schools or parental controls on individual devices.

[Parental controls for Android](#)

[Parental controls for iOS \(iPhone\)](#)



Google Family Link

<https://families.google.com/familylink/>



Resources to help keep people safe online and allows anyone to report harmful content

<https://www.netsafe.org.nz/advice/parenting/>



Sticks and Stones

Training courses for students, research, and projects focussed on online safety.

<https://www.sticksnstones.co.nz/>



ICON (In Case of Online Negativity)

Actionable advice for dealing with tricky online situations eg. sending/receiving nudes, bullying, aggression etc.

Also has audio stories from students in such situations.

<https://icon.org.nz/>



NEW ZEALAND  
**POLICE**  
Ngā Pirihimana o Aotearoa

NZ Police

<https://www.police.govt.nz/advice-services/cybercrime-and-internet/online-child-safety>

## WHAT MEASURES ARE ALREADY IN PLACE AT MOUNT MAUNGANUI COLLEGE TO KEEP STUDENTS SAFE ONLINE?

At school, N4L is in place. It blocks nearly two million unsafe sites daily to keep children safe online.

Fortigate is also used. This firewall makes it harder for students to visit restricted sites using VPN's.

[N4L Website](#)

[N4L works with Fortinet](#)

[Schools Upgraded to Safer Managed Network](#)

## WHAT CAN PARENTS USE AT HOME TO KEEP STUDENTS SAFE?

Switch on Safety is a free at home alternative to N4L.

[Switch on Safety](#)

Find out more about what content Switch on Safety blocks

[Switch on Safety Blocks](#)

Safesurfer is another at home filtering tool. Safesurfer blocks sites and content (android only). Parents can also opt to receive automated emails to monitor the screen time of specific devices.

[Safesurfer](#)

**NOTE:** Although measures can be taken at school and home to block content when devices are connected to wifi, if students are accessing the internet via data, hotspots, or a VPN this can bypass filters such as N4L and Safesurfer. Keeping track of screen time via a tool like safe surfer or by looking at the settings on the device itself can be a way to understand if students have been on the internet in general, but it's for this reason that the education around online safety is so important.

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