

002 RH7 Digital Safety Update

YOLO

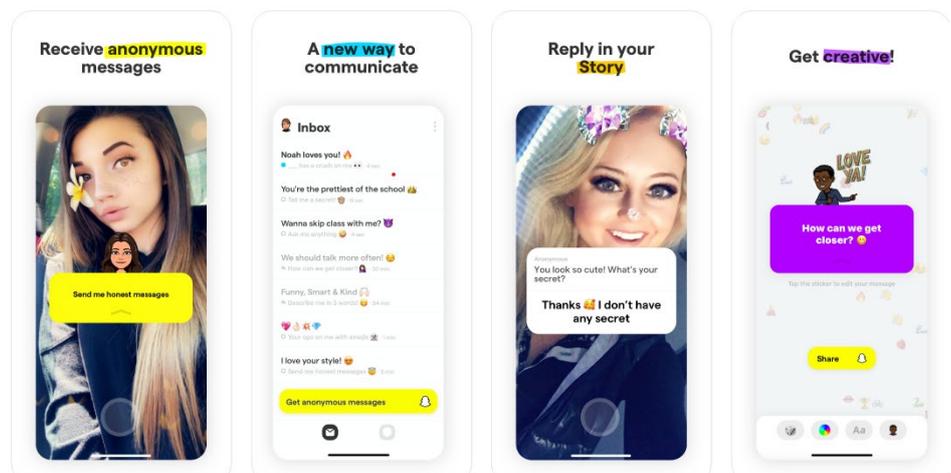


“the most fun and spontaneous way to get honest and genuine messages from your friends” (Yolo)

Yolo which stands for ‘you only live once’ is an anonymous question and answer app that is used within Snapchat and links to Bitmoji. Users can post anonymous questions and comments on a Snapchat story and also attach an image. Once a user has linked the app to their Snapchat account, it prompts them to ‘get anonymous messages’ and create a question to prompt others to ‘Send me honest messages’. The app allows users to send pre-generated questions; there are about forty question options to choose from, including, "Send new music to listen to," "Would you date me?" and "What's my best feature?"

The app's inbox keeps a record of questions posed to Snapchat members and responses.

Yolo’s anonymous Q&A also includes a chat feature where users can start private conversations or group chats; this feature requires users to link Bitmoji.



With less fear of being caught, the ‘anonymous’ feature could encourage users to send malicious messages or create incidents of cyberbullying which parents should be aware of.

"Anonymity has always created a breeding ground for hate and very poor teen decision-making."
(US internet safety group Protect Young Eyes)

"The amount of provocative pre-generated questions and built in anonymity make this app best for older teens." (CommonSense Media 2019)

Safety Features:

At this point in time, beyond a statement about positive and respectful feedback, the app has no safety measures built in. Yolo offers no advice on reporting abuse, cyberbullying or inappropriate behaviour, however users can block users and report abuse on Snapchat.

App Age Rating

Yolo requires that users be 18 years of age or older; if the user is under 18 years of age, Yolo ask that the user is under the supervision of a parent or legal guardian and that the parent/guardian has

reviewed and agreed to Yolo's online terms. Any use or access to the Service by anyone under 13 is strictly prohibited and in violation of Yolo's terms and conditions.

Further Links

Common Sense Media's guide to Yolo:

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/app-reviews/yolo-anonymous-qa>

E-Safety Commissioner Guidelines regarding Yolo:

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/key-issues/esafety-guide/yolo>

InternetMatters guide to Yolo:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/parents-guide-what-is-yolo-app-and-is-it-safe/>

Reporting Inappropriate and Abusive Content



Child abuse images - Child sexual abuse content and non-photographic child sexual abuse images should be reported to the Internet Watch Foundation:

<https://report.iwf.org.uk/en>



If there are any concerns about online sexual abuse or the way someone has been communicating online (grooming) please report to CEOP (the link can also be found at the bottom of the school website): <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

Best Practice

The best way to keep children and young people safe is to be as informed about their online life as you can, particularly regarding knowledge of individual apps (and their safety and digital wellbeing features) and the amount of time children spend on their devices. Find out what the children use the apps for and talk to them about what they enjoy about them.

- Abide by the official app age rating
- If your child wants to use a particular app then we suggest you download the app to your (adult) device and learn about the app first.
- If your child already uses the app, ask them to show you how it works and talk you through the privacy/safety settings.
- Counsel your child not to reveal personal information such as age, address, or phone number in their profile information section.
- Do not let children use their devices alone in their bedroom.
- At night-time remove electronic devices from bedrooms. Consider a family 'no devices in the bedroom' rule.
- Consider setting app time limits using Apple Screen time (Apple devices) <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT208982#anchor16> or OurPactJunior (Apple and Android) <https://ourpact.com/ourpact-jr/>

Monitoring Pupil devices at home

There are now a number of apps and software providers that can help parents take back control and monitor/guide their child's device use.



Family Link app - works on Android devices:

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



Qustodio - works on Apple and Android devices

<https://www.qustodio.com/en/family/how-it-works/>



Our Pact - works on Apple and Android devices

<https://ourpact.com/>

General information regarding setting up Parental controls:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/setting-parental-controls-netflix>

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