



Online Safety



Hoop

Hoop is a dating app for teenagers which links to their existing Snapchat accounts in the same way Tinder links to Facebook. Users create an account with photos and information about themselves and this allows them to swipe through profiles.

To start chatting, they simply click a button and it requests the strangers Snapchat username. The chat itself then moves into Snapchat. Kids are invited to “choose an age” for their Hoop profile - which may or may not be the same as the one on their Snapchat account.

Requests to connect with others in Hoop have to be paid for in ‘diamonds’ which are earned by sharing and inviting friends onto the app, by adding new people to Snapchat via Hoop, by logging in each day, taking surveys, watching video adverts and/or signing up for streaming services.

Hoop not only makes it easy for strangers to access your child’s personal information through Snapchat, it also rewards them for doing so.

The reward system operates in a similar way to ‘snapstreaks’, encouraging young people to log in daily and make as many connections as they can to earn more rewards.

Hoop also encourages young people to complete surveys, collecting data and personal information each time.

One of the reviews on the Apple Store raises concerns about numerous fake accounts and adverts for a site called findurlovmate which redirects the user to pornography.

Find more information on Hoop:

<https://protectyoungeyes.com/apps/hoop-parental-controls/>

www.commonsemmedia.org/app-reviews/hoop

<https://famisafe.wondershare.com/app-review/hoop-snapchat-app-review.html>



How can you help?

Talk to young people about the risks involved with sharing personal information with people they don’t know

Remind them that not everyone is who they say they are online and they should not agree to meet in real life if they don’t know them

Share information with professionals/parents/carers so that they are aware of this app and the potential risks