



Gooseberry Alert 20

Being too honest online – Anonymous social messaging

Welcome to your 'Gooseberry Alert', now every other week. Please feel free to **share the 'Gooseberry Planet Tips/Thoughts of the Week'**. Helping to keep you and your whole school community **Safer Online**.

Gooseberry Student 'Discussion' of the week

The Big Question: Is there such a thing as being too honest online?

Take some time offline, to think about and discuss the following questions to help form your opinion.

- How can social messaging apps change the way we communicate with people?
- How do you feel about apps that allow users to make comments anonymously?
- How might opportunities to be anonymously honest online be positive or negative?
- How would you make anonymous social messaging apps safer to use?

Please share with students.



Gooseberry Teacher 'Tips' of the week

Is honesty really the best policy? Maybe or Maybe not, when using anonymous social messaging apps.



- **Create time** to discuss the positives and negatives of social messaging.
- Be sure to mention anonymous apps and **encourage learners to discuss** their thoughts freely.
- **Get an idea** of what apps are being used and what social messaging is going on in your classroom. You may be surprised at the positive and responsible behaviours that already exist or **become aware** of learners who need further support.
- Consider using this discussion to **create opportunities** for learners, to **share responsible ways to interact socially online**.

If an issue or concern does arise, make sure you are fully informed about the steps and safeguarding procedures you need to take, to support a child in your care.

Please share with staff.

Gooseberry Parent 'Tips' of the week

Knowing what apps, games and websites your children are using can help you stay one step ahead in understanding their life online.

Anonymous social messaging apps are popular amongst younger teens for all sorts of reasons.

- 'Check in' with your child/children and **find out how they communicate online** and **how they feel about anonymous messaging apps**.
- Invite them to **talk to you about how they manage their safety, when chatting with friends online**.

Please share with Parents.





In the news... In the news... In the news... In the news... In the news...

tbh

In an attempt to promote being 'nicer online', Facebook has recently acquired an app called '**tbh**' (to be honest).

This is a free and anonymous app that is already in use by over 5 million users in the US on iOS devices but we predict it is only a matter of time before it hits the UK and becomes available on other devices.



The aim (according to Facebook) of the app is to "build a community and enable people to share in ways that bring us closer together", meeting the emotional needs of users by creating positive (yet anonymous) experiences online.

Described on iTunes Preview as 'The only anonymous app that creates positive vibes'

Users create positive questions which are then answered anonymously by the online communities that they belong to. Users can choose later 'reveal' their identity and their response. The idea is to try and increase positive interaction online and help people feel better. Users can create positively themed polls and vote on all kinds of topics from 'Who has the best smile?' to 'who makes you laugh the most?'

It is difficult to say how much of a positive impact this app will have on changing behaviour online but this could be the first step towards developers taking some responsibility for the content they create and promote online.

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