



# PARENT ADVICE

## ONLINE SAFETY

### Parent Tips

'Helicopter parenting' has become the go-to phrase when talking about parents who seem to 'hover' over their children, watching their every move and not allowing them to make mistakes or fall. Conversely, the opposite type of parenting (parents who ignore their children's internet use and who are not teaching their children how to navigate social media safely) may also be putting them in harm's way. Finding the right balance between the two is really tricky, but communicating with and educating your child (from any age) is the first and most important step in keeping them safe online.



### TELLONYM

- |             |                                   |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>PROS</b> | <b>CONS</b>                       |
|             | 👤 Anonymous communication         |
|             | 🔒 Age restrictions easy to bypass |

#### ABOUT:

'Tellonym' claims to be 'the most honest place on the internet. See what your friends think of you, answer anonymous questions and ask others the things you have never dared before!' according to its own synopsis. Users can send 'tells' to each other's feeds, with the option to 'opt out' of receiving tells from strangers.

#### WHAT ARE THE RISKS:

For those parents that recall our review of the since-banned app 'Sarahah', 'Tellonym' is frighteningly similar. Users are reporting that they are being bullied, have had terrible and mean things said about them and people are 'trying to ruin their reputation'. The anonymity of the app creates a culture of harassment and bullying that can be harmful to vulnerable teens.

The age restriction is easily and quickly bypassed with no actual verification required or question about year of birth asked, and the registration process was also extremely minimal in its requirements.

'Tellonym's' developers claim to have 'society's mental health in mind' however this is questionable when looking at their 'safety features', which are not robust enough to guarantee the prevention of harassment or bullying. Strangers can chat with your child as soon as the app is loaded (from anywhere on the internet, not just other Tellonym users), until your child manually blocks strangers in the settings function, which is not immediately disclosed.



### WISHBONE

- |                |                         |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| <b>PROS</b>    | <b>CONS</b>             |
| 🌟 Entertaining | 🚫 Inappropriate content |
|                | 💰 In-app purchases      |
|                | 🗣️ Chat with strangers  |

#### ABOUT:

'Wishbone' lets users compare virtually anything – from dogs vs cats to celebrities, makeup, cakes –the list goes on. Users create an account with just an email address and can add their photo to their profile if they wish. Similar to 'Instagram', users 'follow' other users, and receive 'followers' themselves.

#### WHAT ARE THE RISKS:

'Wishbone' is a popular app for teenagers that has raised a few red flags with parents, such as the chat feature, which creates connections with complete strangers. This obviously has great potential for predators to get in contact with your child and assume a teenage identity.

The ability for inappropriate material to appear in feeds, in-app purchases for 'wishes', and the high amount of advertisements has also been a point of concern for parents, and Perimeter Guardian advises to use this app with caution.

For more information and helpful parent tips regarding your child's tech use, visit [www.perimeterguardian.com.au/insights](http://www.perimeterguardian.com.au/insights)

