



Apps and Blackberry Messenger (BBM)

Apps are small computer programmes on a phone or other mobile device like iPods or tablet computers that give you access to a range of services and information from the internet. There are lots of apps that support education at different ages but you might be concerned about some of the content of certain apps, or whether they include location services that may show other people your child's location.

Apps are downloaded from an online store and can be free or paid for. All online stores – iTunes, Google apps – require an account

with a credit or debit card to be registered. Some apps are free to download but can have 'extras' that cost to download – this is known as 'in-app purchasing' and can be disabled on phones, iPods and tablets.

BBM is an app included on all Blackberry devices that allows free instant messaging between Blackberry users. Messages can be sent to individuals or groups and can include photos, audio clips and files. BBM also allows users to broadcast messages to everyone in their address book.



You might be concerned about the kind of material your child could access via apps, or the risks of downloading a virus. Find out what your children are downloading and how they use BBM:

- Talk to your children about their favourite apps and where they download them from
- Disable 'in-app purchasing' on your child's phone, iPod, laptop to make sure that paid content can't be downloaded from free apps.

You can also turn off location settings if you'd rather not share yours or your child's location.

- Look at age ratings on apps but be aware they have been set by the designers and aren't the same as film or game ratings
- Remind your children to think about what images and content they are sharing with others (see Inappropriate Content)