

# Online Safety 4 Schools

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## Tellonym App



Tellonym is Downloadable for Mobiles / Tablets and has its own Website ( <https://tellonym.me/login> )

Tellonym is Free

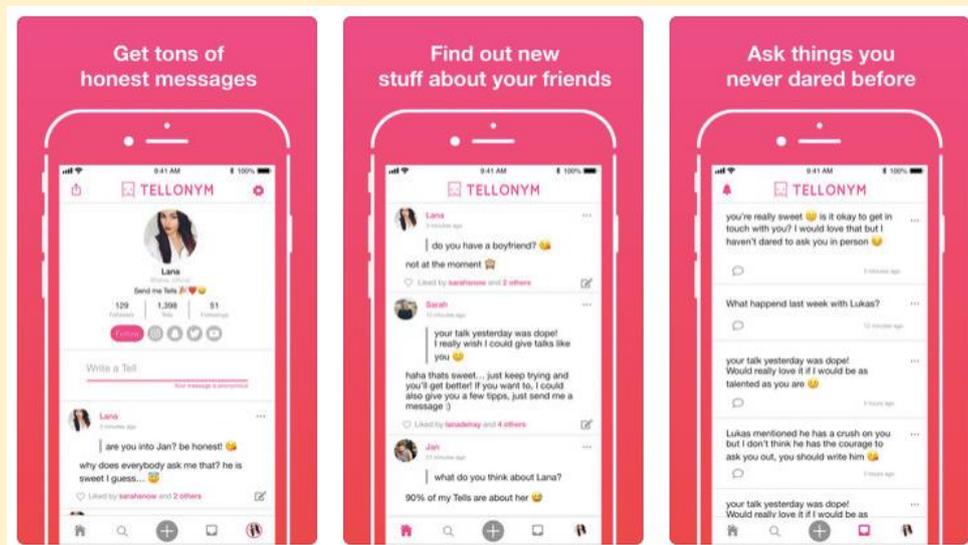
Tellonym Age Rating 17+ (Not verified)

Tellonym has Over 10 Million registered users (70% Young Girls)

Tellonym has allowed and observed "drastic insults or even incitements to suicide"

**Tellonym** is a Free App that allow users (teenagers) to leave each other anonymous feedback. Similar to the App **Sarahah** from the summer of 2016, which was eventually removed from the Apple App Store because of the online bullying and inappropriate use that was taking place. **Tellonym** is Free and can be downloaded from both Google Play Store and the Apple Store.

**Tellonym** allows users to "answer anonymous questions and ask others the things you have never dared before." People share their **Tellonym** link with others through social platforms like Snapchat, Twitter, and Instagram, and wait for friends to reply to questions anonymously. Users can follow each other and send each other anonymous messages. Like most social media-like platforms, a home feed displays all messages addressed to a user, and push notifications alert users whenever a new message or "tell" is delivered. Users can block and report people who send hurtful or harassing messages and can set a filter that recognizes words the user determines.



## What is Tellonym ?

- **Tellonym** allows students (and online strangers) to ask and answer questions anonymously.
- When users sign up they get a link to share with their friends.
- Friends / Contacts / Strangers can ask questions (called 'Tells') using that link. Only the user being asked can see the questions.
- Many users (students) put their link on their social media pages (Instagram bio or Snapchat snaps), which opens the users to being targeted by online strangers on those platforms.
- **Tellonyms** potential for encouraging meanness, bullying and a clique to be formed, making it the last kind of app children and young adults should use.
- If the user chooses to answer a question, their answer and the original question are then posted to their public profile.
- Profiles include a profile picture, a name, a custom status, and answered questions
- Every profile is public by default
- **Tellonym** allows users to follow others and see their answers
- The search feature allows users to look for others based on their **Age, Gender and Location**.
- Users can ask questions anonymously or users can choose to add their name.
- Users can block other users without the App notifying the follower.
- Users can report questions without revealing to the other user that they are being reported.
- The **Tellonym** App is a breeding ground for Cyber Bullying and inappropriate behaviour.
- Users can receive sexually explicit messages and insults.

## What Parents have said.

- .....It is nothing but a platform for bullying.....
- .....It is a platform form for bullies, cowards and trolls, allowing anonymity lends itself to the cruellest of worlds with .....



## Why should parents/carers care?

- Young users tend to behave inappropriately as they feel they are completely anonymous.
- Everyone on the App is anonymous, which heightens the danger that online stranger and predators may contact your child.
- Whilst the age is 17+ this is only an electronic agreement when signing up, so anyone of any age can simply 'agree' (lie) that they are 17+, there is no need to use a date of birth.
- Random strangers can search, add, and post questions.
- **Tellonym** can be difficult to delete. In settings there is the option to delete, but the account can still be accessed and reactivated for the next 30 days, so Parents must keep checking that the App is still not being used (**FOMO**).

## What can parents/carers do?

- Download the **Tellonym** app before your child does, and decide if it is appropriate for your child to use, this will allow you to experience the ease of downloading, the ease of creating and using the App
- Stick to the age restriction of 17+, if possible, only allow children 17 and over to use **Tellonym**, the restriction is there for a reason so try and stick to it.
- Use Family Sharing on IOs devices and the Family Link App on Android devices to prevent your child downloading **Tellonym** without your knowledge. Family sharing can be accessed via the Apple device settings option and uses your apple id which then prevents the user of the other device from downloading new Apps. The Android App needs to be downloaded via Play Store and require each user to have a Gmail email, but once set up the user will be prevented from downloading Apps from the Play store without permission.

**If a Parent/Carer decides to allow their Child to use Tellonym (NOT ADVISABLE)**

- If you and your child decide to create a profile on **Tellonym**, then make sure you know and always know your child's profile name, password etc. This allows you to have control and allows for periodic checking of your child's account.
- Create the profile together and keep the log in details secret, physically logging in for your child to limit usage. Social Media, Gaming and App usage is not a right it is a privilege, so children (especially those under 17) should earn the right to spend time with their parents using **Tellonym**, stay in control and share the experience.
- Talk with your child about the App and how it is used, how they should use it, and how it can be dangerous and upsetting.
- Encourage them to speak to you when something upsets, worries, or concerns them. Then 'flag', 'block' and report together.

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