



Dear Parents

## **Online safety concerns raised over YUBO APP**

The Violence Reduction Unit has shared an online safety alert for **the YUBO app**. Please be aware that young people are using the app 'YUBO' which is a social/ chat room/ live stream type app. There are concerns raised of the potential of adult abusers using this site to exploit children and young people.

Please see the concerns shared below:

- **Poor Age Restrictions/Privacy Settings:** Although the terms and conditions state that 'YUBO' is **strictly for users above 13 years old**, there is nothing to prevent a young child from joining the platform. Young people have been observed to connect with adults or mature teens on the app to chat with or even ask to be 'rated'. There is a growing concern that the app could be used for grooming. Adult predators have been known to create fake profiles displaying a teenager's persona to lure unsuspecting kids into conversations. It is almost impossible to verify the true identity of a 'YUBO' user.
- **Livestream:** The livestream feature is the most worrying. Children can initiate live video streams of their day, in their bedrooms or any other location. Any number of strangers can view the stream and can send questions or interact via live text chat. These are not restricted to friends alone and are often open to strangers; users are then encouraged to add unknown attendees/viewers as friends during the stream. In addition, questions from strangers on livestream may result in teenagers giving away personal information and the most disturbing part of this feature is that anyone can record a livestream.

Please be vigilant in monitoring your child's mobile phone or any other device that connects your child to the Internet.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Mrs Norbury  
Principal  
March 2022