



## Ottery St Mary Primary School

### Staying safe online: House Party



#### What is it?

Commonsense media recommends this app for children who are 16+. There have been recent concerns about a data breach involving houseparty. Although there is no evidence that this is true, **it is sensible to be cautious when downloading any app which enables people to share live videos.**

Houseparty is a video-focused social media app. Friends (**and friends of friends**) can communicate with each other via **live video and texts**. Because there's no screening and the video is live, **there's always the possibility of inappropriate content for children, but that will largely depend on the friends who are communicating.**

The biggest risks are communicating with people you don't know well, pictures and screenshots getting shared around, and spending lots of time in virtual hangouts. Parents should also note that **users can send links to their profiles on the app via a text message to whomever they want, and it's possible to take a screenshot -- even of private groups -- and share it.**

Remind your child to talk to you about the things they have seen online, and try to remain calm and reassuring - one of the main reasons children will be reluctant to report online incidents is a fear of 'getting into trouble'.

Remember, if you have concerns about the content your child has seen online, you can report it to one of CEOP's child protection advisors. [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)



**WE ARE SMART ONLINE**

**SECRET**  
We keep our personal information secret

**MEETING**  
We never arrange to meet someone we only know online.

**ACCEPTING**  
We think before accepting friend requests or attachments.

**RELIABLE**  
We know not everything we see online is reliable or trustworthy.

**TELL**  
If we are ever worried, we 'turn off and tell' a trusted adult.

As with all online activities, we recommend the SMART approach

**Secret:** Do not share personal information about yourself on Houseparty, such as sharing your address or passwords.

**Meeting:** Do not arrange to meet someone from Houseparty.

**Accepting:** Only accept friend requests from and join Houseparty 'rooms' with people you know in real life.

**Reliable:** Know that not everything you see on Houseparty is trustworthy or true.

**Tell:** Report anything you see on Houseparty that makes you feel uncomfortable.

