- **It's a mixed bag of trouble.** This app has it all: cyberbullying, explicit sexual content, unintended location sharing, and exposure to explicit information about drugs and alcohol.
- **Some schools have banned access.** Some teens have used the app to threaten others, causing school lockdowns and more. Its gossipy and sometimes cruel nature can be toxic to a high school environment, so administrators are cracking down.

1. Ask.fm is a social site that lets kids ask questions and answer those posted by other users -- sometimes anonymously.

**Why it's popular**

Although there are some friendly interactions on Ask.fm -- Q&As about favorite foods or crushes, for example -- there are lots of mean comments and some creepy sexual posts. This iffy content is part of the site's appeal for teens.

**What parents need to know**

- **Bullying is a major concern.** The British news website MailOnline reported that the site has been linked to the suicides of several teens. Talk to your teens about cyberbullying and how anonymity can encourage mean behavior.
- **Anonymous answers are optional.** Users can decide whether to allow anonymous posts and can remove their answers from streaming to decrease their profile's visibility. If your teens do use the site, they'd be best turning off anonymous answers and keeping themselves out of the live stream.
- **Q&As can appear on Facebook.** Syncing with Facebook means that a much wider audience can see those Q&As.

WhatsApp lets users send text messages, audio messages, videos, and photos to one or many people with no message limits or fees.

**Why it's popular**

The price is right; for teens who have a hard time keeping within the limits of a standard texting plan, the ability to send unlimited messages for free is a definite bonus.

**What parents need to know**

- **It's for users 16 and over.** Lots of younger teens seem to be using the app, but this age minimum has been set by WhatsApp.
- **It can be pushy.** After you sign up, it automatically connects you to all the people in your address book who also are using WhatsApp. Beyond that, the app often encourages you to add friends who haven't yet signed up.
- **Kids may need some limits.** Although unlimited texting may save you cash, capping kids' communication can help them stay focused on the more important transmissions.

Omegle is a chat site (and app) that puts two strangers together in their choice of a text chat or video chat room.