

BeReal.

Your friends for real.

CSC INTERNET SAFETY

What is "BeReal"?

BeReal is the newest trending social media app, geared towards users ages 13+. The purpose is to see other users within their day-to-day lives, sharing "candid photos" without editing or applying filters. BeReal notifies users randomly throughout the day to take a picture of what they are doing at that moment, within a two-minute window. This app shares two types of pictures, "selfies" and images that the user submits that show their surroundings. Users can ONLY view and react to other's photos once they have uploaded their own that day.

Inappropriate Content

BeReal does not mandate editing, allows friends only at first as followers & there is no way to get around the "1 picture a day" rule. The possibility of unmoderated images could be highly likely as this the app shows how many times you took a photo, or if you were late posting that day... making it a "Truth or Dare" concept.

Push Notifications

BeReal sends only one notification out randomly throughout the day, but there are many other notifications that BeReal lets user be aware of, such as "mentions, comments, friend requests, and reactions". These push notifications cause users to feel obligated to respond, resulting in being distracted in day to day activities such as school, and other obligations.

Negative Self-Image or Reputable Damage

What a user says, does, or portrays to be online leaves what is called a "digital footprint", this allows other users to see this specific user one way via social media, versus real life. Many users who are children, may not understand that when posting an image online, they are giving BeReal the right to do whatever they would like with the image or content that has been posted on their app, including sharing this elsewhere across a multitude of platforms.

Stranger Danger

When users sign up for "BeReal", the app defaults to highlight anyone already within their contact list who is already using the app. This allows users to connect, or invite others to use the app.

"Discovery Feed" shows posts from unknown users, while allowing users to have the option to add them as friends as well.

Due to this option, many children and young adults could be connecting, meeting, or communicating with complete strangers while possibly putting themselves in the hands of danger.

Privacy?

BeReal's default setting for location is to share the EXACT location from where the user is when the photo is taken and sent from. Anyone that the user is friends with on the app will know where this is within a two-minute time frame. This may also include strangers if the user has added them as "friends", these users can then use their geographical location for their own personal gain, or malicious purposes.

How can Parents or Guardians monitor on BeReal?

BeReal offers the option of turning off specific types of push notifications, by doing this it will significantly decrease the number of times a user is tempted to open the app due to comments, mentions, uploads, requests etc. This

Warning to Parents & Users

This is explicitly detailed in BeReal's terms of use, and many users skim over these terms, not knowing how or when their images may have appeared somewhere else.