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## Gossip: Teenage mobile app encouraging anonymous rumour-spreading causes angst in France



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A mobile phone application which encourages anonymous gossip by – and about – teenagers is causing consternation in France.

The app called "Gossip" (using the English word) has been temporarily withdrawn after complaints by teachers, parents, pupils' unions and even the education minister.

After only a few weeks of existence, Gossip has become the 7th most downloaded social media app in France. It allows users to send anonymous messages to their friends which appear on phone screens for ten seconds, classified as either "rumour" or "proof".

Although supposedly destined for "young adults", the app has spread like wildfire amongst youngsters aged 14 to 18. Typical messages have included: "Camille is the ugliest girl in the class" or "Sophie sleeps around" or "Philippe is secretly gay".

Source : <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/gossip-teenage-mobile-app-encouraging-anonymous-gossip-causes-angst-in-france-10297320.html>