

The BBC Sounds App. 12th April 2021

BBC Sounds enables you to listen, free, to all BBC radio programmes, podcasts and music. You do not need a BBC Account to access, but having one enables you to add programmes to enjoy at a later date.

All you have to do to get a BBC account is register at:
bbc.co.uk

It doesn't require all your personal details, just: date of birth, email address, gender and a password.

One other benefit to having a BBC account is that you can link a child's profile with your own for parental controls.

BBC Sounds can be accessed from the BBC website, but it is best when accessed via the BBC Sounds App, available for tablets and smartphones; this is because programmes can be downloaded via the App, and are then available to listen to offline.

Tapping on the BBC Sounds App brings up the Home Page; by scrolling along, you can see the main BBC radio channels, including the World Service and children's programmes. Tapping on one of them will begin the live broadcast on that channel.

To discover more, tap on 'Stations and Schedules' below. This brings up all the local radio programmes, in addition to the main channels. By tapping on any one of them, you will be able to see the programmes scheduled for that channel in the previous 30 days, as well as the programmes for that day and for the week ahead.

Many of these can be 'bookmarked' so as to explore later; or, they can be 'subscribed', meaning that they will be saved, and further programmes in the same series will be added automatically, as they become available. Some programmes can be 'downloaded', so that they can be listened to offline, eg. via Bluetooth on a car radio.

To go back to the Homepage, tap on the arrow at the top of the screen; look at the 4 icons at the bottom of the page.

Tap on 'Music' – you will see 15 squares, each offering access to different genres of music. Tapping on any square brings up a huge selection.

Tapping 'Search', the icon on the bottom right of the screen, reveals the music programmes mentioned above, and 26 different types of speech programme, each one containing an enormous selection. Again, most of these can be bookmarked, subscribed to, or downloaded. In addition, there is a search bar, enabling you to search for a programme.

The icon 'My Sounds': tap on this to reveal the programmes that you have bookmarked, subscribed to, or downloaded.

Tapping on a programme will bring up the broadcast, plus a synopsis of what it is about. Tapping on 'More' reveals a window enabling you to share the programme or to delete it.

