

ONLINE SAFETY

SWITCH TO REMOTE



Safeguarding for Snapchat



What is it?

an app to exchange user-generated photos, texts, videos, and calls.

Great for:

- Fun **photo and video filters**, geofilters, and live chats.
- The **discover** feature keeps users updated with news, brands, and their favourite celebrities.
- You can create **stories** of photos and videos.
- **The disappearing act** - default settings automatically delete messages and photos once viewed.

Risks:

- **Snaps can be screenshot**, captured off another device, or someone may use third party apps to record snaps, so users should be cautious of what they send.
- **Any user can add anyone else as a 'friend'**: users can't receive a Snap unless a friend request is accepted but it just takes one click.
- **Unwanted or explicit messages or photos** are a risk on most platforms but the disappearing nature of Snaps means that, while users can report to Snapchat, evidence of verbal or sexual harassment won't be immediately accessible to parents, guardians, or police.
- Snap Map will show a connection's **live location** if Ghost Mode isn't switched on, a particular risk if users are connecting with those they don't know well.

Age restriction:

13 and over but no age verification.

How can you make it safer?

- Snapchat is for keeping in touch with close friends and family, so **decline requests from strangers**.
- **Use Ghost Mode** to always keep user location private on the Snap Map. Expectations can be made for particularly close friends and family.
- Keep account settings **private** to restrict who can make contact and view stories.
- **Immediately report** inappropriate content within the app.
- Users should **block connections who make them uncomfortable or who they don't know**.
- Encourage young people to **think about what they send**.
- Let them show you the app and **ask questions**; who are they talking to? What filters do they use? What platforms are they following on Discover?

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Safeguarding for TikTok



What is it?

An app giving users the opportunity to **share short videos** with the world.

Content includes special effects, with funny sketches, stunts, lip-syncs, and so much more.

Age restriction:

13 and over but no age verification process

Popularity

TikTok has over **a billion users!** It is particularly popular for those age 13 to 24.

Great for:

- **Expressing yourself**, gaining a following, and building a community who share interests.
- Impressive **special effects** and video editing tools make it easy to create **unique and creative content**.
- Users with even the smallest followings can go **viral overnight** with good content.
- The app **adapts to your interests**, so the more you watch one type of content, the more of that you'll see.

Risks:

- By default **all accounts are public** so anyone on the app can see what you share and **your location**.
- Strangers can **directly contact users** on the app.
- Really **risky behaviour** gets a lot of attention, for example jumping across buildings, tempting some users to take excessive risks to build their following.
- Some content covers **sensitive topics**, such as serious mental health issues; the longer a user watches content for, the more of it they will see.

How can you make it safer?

- Accounts can be made **private**.
- **'Restricted mode'** filters out inappropriate content.
- The app considers **digital wellbeing**, alerting users who have been on the app for more than two hours. Is the person you're working with getting these kind of notifications?
- **Ask who they follow on TikTok** and take a look at what those users post; it'll give you insight on what interests them and what they might be dealing with.



Safeguarding for Twitch



What is it?

A **video live** streaming service

Great for:

- **Interacting** with gamers, musicians, and esports competitors, through creative content, and video game playthroughs.
- Finding creative content for things like art, cooking and fitness.
- **Quickly build live connections** with people who have similar interests.
- Within certain parameters, some gamers can **make money through views** and subscribers.

Risks:

- Live streaming is **unpredictable**, which makes it difficult to know what young people are watching.
- Some streams have a subculture of **adult or sexual themes and bad language**.
- Young people are at risk of **grooming** and explicit content, through Whispers, which are private messages from strangers.
- There can be some **violent content** through gaming streams.

Age restriction:

13 and over

How can you make it safer?

- **Explore the app together** - be open to talking about what content is, what you both like, and be open about what content is concerning.
- **Ask questions** and talk about why content might be concerning, or not.
- Channel owners can appoint **chat moderators** and have all new users agree to rules before joining.
- **'AutoMod'** can block certain offensive words before they are published to the channel.
- If a user is breaking Twitch's Terms of Service or Community Guidelines, any user can file a report, and **block that user**.
- Encourage users to find **age appropriate communities** that are friendly, so content will reflect that.
- Users can **block Whispers** (private messages) from people they don't know.

Safeguarding for Youtube

What is it?

An online video-sharing platform.

Great for:

- With over a billion users, you can watch almost **any sort of content** you can think of - music videos, comedy, films, how-to guides, recipes, life hacks, educational lessons, motivational talks... etc.
- Learn **digital video skills** and produce creative, original content.
- **Express yourself** through your own channel - sharing thoughts with the world and even earning money as a YouTuber.
- Follow YouTubers, celebrities, and friends to get **regular content** tailored to interests.

Risks:

- YouTube has an estimated 500 hours of video uploaded per minute, and a portion of that content can be **inappropriate or even harmful**; be it violent, criminal or talk of self-harm.
- With increasing live streaming, there is an increasing amount of **unmonitored content**.
- When reported, some content can take time to be removed.
- **Negative comments** can be hurtful and extend to bullying for some content creators (YouTubers).

Age restriction:

13 and over but videos can be watched without an account.

How can you make it safer?

- **Ask questions!** What are they watching? Who is their favourite YouTuber? Do they create content? What is appropriate to share?
- **YouTube Kids** is suitable for young children and **restricted mode** will bar potentially mature content for teenagers.
- Users should **not give out any personal identifiable details** in videos or in comments.
- If a user is experiencing harassment, they can **block and report** users.
- Users can **disable comments** on their own content to minimise cyberbullying.
- Posting a video can be delayed by **scheduling** - giving a user time to reconsider content before it is live.

Safeguarding for Yubo

What is it?

A **video live-streaming** app for finding new friends. Users swipe right on someone else's profile to 'like' them, and swipe left to move on to the next profile.

Age restriction:

13 and over, and under 17s are asked to confirm they have the permission of a parent or guardian, but there is no age verification.

Great for:

- It's free, easy to use and allows young people to **connect with others** around the world with shared interests and form connections.
- Users can **instant message** friends on a one to one basis or within a group, and live stream to a group of friends.
- Users can also **live stream in real time** through the app and add viewers as new friends

How can you make it safer?

- **Talk** about the importance of not oversharing personal details publicly or with people you don't know in person.
- Click the **flag button** in the top left corner of a profile to report any inappropriate photos or profiles.
- Keep user location private by clicking on **'Hide my city'**.
- Users cannot be blocked but the app has recently added a feature **auto-blocking nudity** and some inappropriate comments.

Risks:

- **Strangers can view** live streams and interact via live text chat. These are not restricted to friends alone.
- Users are **encouraged to add strangers** as friends.
- Once a new friend is added, they can **gain access to a user's Snapchat and Instagram** accounts.
- The app is often referred to as a **"Tinder for teens"**
- It is very **difficult to verify** the identity of a Yubo user, causing many fake profiles to exist.
- The app is **not monitored** or moderated.