

App / Game / Site	Summary	Recommended Age	Security Information
Instagram	Instagram is a picture and video sharing app. Users can post content and use hashtags to share experiences, thoughts or memories with an online community. You can follow your friends, family, celebrities and even companies on Instagram. Instagram allows live streaming.	13+	Instagram has developed a filter that will block certain offensive comments on posts and in live video. All other comments will appear as they normally do and you can still report comments, delete comments or turn them off. You can also turn this filter off. To access it, click the '...' settings menu from the profile and scroll to tap 'Comments'
Snapchat	Snapchat is an app that lets you send a photo, short video or message to your contacts. The 'snap' appears on screen for up to 10 seconds before disappearing, or there is an option to have no time limit. There's also a feature called Snapchat Story that lets you share snaps in a sequence for up to 24 hours.	13+	You can hide your location in Snapchat by turning on Ghost Mode in Settings, then See My Location
YouTube	YouTube allows you to watch, create and comment on videos. You can create your own YouTube account, create a music playlist, and even create your own channel, which means you will have a public profile. YouTube allows live streaming.	13+	You may wish to consider YouTube Kids as a safer option for younger children. YouTube Kids allows parents to set an age level and time limits.
Minecraft: Pocket Edition	Minecraft is a game that lets you build and create a virtual world using building blocks. Other activities include using the multiplayer function to explore the worlds created by other users and to combat, chat and play with them.	13+	Minecraft is one of the most popular kids games – it is recommended that you turn off any chat features in the settings of the app. This will make sure that if your child does want to play online; they won't be speaking to any people you wouldn't want them to.
Facebook & Messenger	Facebook is a social network which lets you create a page about yourself. You can add friends, write on people's pages, share photos and videos including live videos. Messenger allows you to instant message in group chats or one to one. Facebook allows gaming and live streaming.	13+	Your Facebook account can be given a privacy check by tapping Privacy Shortcuts, then Privacy Check-up in the help and settings menu.
Disney Club Penguin Island	Disney Club Penguin Island is a game set in a virtual world, where users create a cartoon penguin character. Players can talk to others, go to different islands and create and invite others to their igloos.	3+	To get the most out of this game you do need to subscribe to a membership. Remember, the costs can add up with member upgrades, so it helps to restrict in-app purchases in your settings to avoid getting a big bill

Skype	Skype is a computer programme and app, which lets you make audio and video calls to other users around the world. You can also send instant messages.	13+	You can manage how people find you on Skype and choose whether your account appears in search results by tapping your profile, settings, then privacy.
Tumblr	Tumblr is a social networking site that lets you share text, photos, quotes, links, audio clips, slideshows and videos. You can customise your page and share other people's posts. You can also send private messages. Tumblr allows live streaming	13+	Tumblr's filtering options allow you to filter out inappropriate content using filtered tags. Simply add the tags you want to hide to the list in settings, filtering, then filtered tags.
WhatsApp	WhatsApp is an instant messaging app which lets you send messages, images and videos in one to one and group chats with your contacts. You can choose to share your live location for up to eight hours with one contact or a group	16+	You can hide personal information on WhatsApp. Features like last seen, profile photo, about, status & live location can be hidden via Settings, Account and Privacy.
Twitter	Twitter is a social media site and app that lets you post public messages called tweets. These can be up to 280 characters long. As well as tweets, you can send private messages and post pictures/videos. Brands, companies and celebrities can also have Twitter accounts.	13+	Twitter allows you to mute words to help filter inappropriate content from your timeline and notifications. Tap settings, then muted words and simply add the words you would like to block to the list
Miniclip	Miniclip is a gaming website that hosts several games that can be used on social networks and other online gaming platforms. Individual games can also be downloaded as apps. You can play against others, instant message people and comment on the games.	13+	Miniclip relies on the purchase of 'coins' to continue play. Remember to restrict in-app purchases as they can range from £1.99 to £99 and are simple for kids to purchase. Head to your settings page on your device to make sure your kids and wallet are protected.
Omegle	Omegle is a social networking site that randomly connects you to another person who's on the site. It lets you talk to them in a one-to-one audio or video conversation. You can both appear as anonymous, unless you decide to share your personal information	13+	Omegle has no security measures in place so it is strongly recommended that this app is avoided.
Pinterest	Pinterest is an online interactive pin board. You can create collections of pin boards using your own images and you can also re-pin things from other people	13+	You can hide your profile from search engines by turning on Search Engine Privacy in Settings, then Edit Settings.
PopJam	PopJam is a creative app and website where you can create and share art and take quizzes. Users can comment openly but there is no private messaging	7+	Make sure your child knows how to report posts they feel are unwanted by pressing the arrow icon in top right of the post then pressing the (!) report post. This flags the post for moderators to look at.

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Reddit	Reddit is a community-based forum where people write posts covering different topics, which others can then comment on. The more popular something is the higher up it appears on the website.	13+	As this is an anonymous site, there is no way to block specific users. However, if parents are concerned about their children not being ready to view this site, they can set up parental controls by heading to settings, general, then clicking on parental controls and selecting key features to block
Twitch	Twitch is a live video game website. You can watch playbacks of games being played by other people. You can also live stream your own games, and chat to other gamers. Users can follow channels and games they want to keep track of. Twitch allows live streaming	13+	Twitch lets you control whether you share your activity under settings, account, and then presence
Viber	Viber is an app, which lets you text, call, share photos and send video messages to people worldwide.	13+	You can ensure your profile is private by heading to 'More, Settings, Private' and activating. This will ensure that only people you know can contact you or send images.
Clash of Clans	Clash of Clans is a combat game where players build their own armies (clans) and battle against other armies from around the world. You can join forces with other armies or battle against others on your own. There is also a chat feature where you can talk to other players.	13+	Remember to restrict in-app purchases and visit the Stay Safe and Play Fair section on the game to keep your kids and wallet protected.
SoundCloud	SoundCloud is an app that lets you find music, podcasts, news and comedy that you are interested in. You can follow friends and artists, explore trending music and audio feeds and create playlists.	13+	You can't make your account completely private on SoundCloud, however you can select whether a track or playlist is private or public. You can also change the privacy settings of your track or playlist at any time.
Dubsmash	Dubsmash is an app which lets you create your own music videos dubbed with famous sounds and quotes. Once you've finished, you can share the video with your friends or with people from around the world	13+	Once you remove a contact from the contact list it also blocks them from sending 'dubs' to you. They can be re-added but this is a good way to ensure your kids are safe online.

<p>Steam</p>	<p>Steam is an entertainment platform which lets you play games and create your own in-game content. You can also chat to other members of the community, through groups, clans, or in-game chat features. Steam allows live streaming</p>	<p>13+</p>	<p>Steam is like an App Store for PC's – you can set up a family account to manage what your child is playing and potentially buying. You can put these steps in place by setting up Family View. See below</p> <p>Setting up Family View If there are features of Steam that you would like to exclude from the experience, you can restrict access using Family View. You may also choose to enable Family View on your own Steam account if you would rather children share your Steam Account.</p> <p>To enable Family View:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Log into the Steam account your child will use.</li> <li>2. Click the Steam menu in the top menu bar.</li> <li>3. Open the Settings option.</li> <li>4. Go to the "Family" tab on the left side of the window that opens.</li> <li>5. Click "Family View" to start the Family View wizard.</li> <li>6. Step through the wizard to select the content and features you'd like to be accessible while in PIN-protected Family View.</li> <li>7. Select and confirm your new PIN.</li> </ol> <p>Family Games Library</p> <p>If you've opted to only allow access to a subset of the account's library, your account's library will include a new group called Family Games. Family Games are the games you've chosen to remain accessible while in Family View.</p> <p>In order to add and remove games from this list you first need to disable Family View:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Log into the account.</li> <li>▪ Select the Family View icon.</li> <li>▪ Enter your Family View PIN to exit Family View.</li> </ul> <p>Then, you can authorize the game with one of two methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Find the game in your Library and right-click on the game and click "Add to / Remove from Family Games".</li> <li>▪ Visit the Family tab within Settings and click "Family View" to run through the Family View wizard again. This will provide the option to add or remove games from your Family Games group. Once finished, to return to Family View select the Family View icon and confirm your choice.</li> </ul>
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Roblox	Roblox is a gaming platform where you can create your own games or play games that other users have made. There is also the option to chat to other players, but this can be disabled.	7+	You can change the privacy settings on Roblox by logging into the account and selecting the gear icon in the top right-hand corner. Go to settings, privacy and review the options under contact settings and other settings
Google Hangouts	Google Hangouts is a computer programme and app that lets you video call, phone or message other users. You can either speak to one person at a time or have group conversations.	13+	Hangouts is a great app to chat, call and speak to friends. Parents are advised to check in and learn more about who your child is speaking to. There aren't any parental controls you can put in place, but having a conversation with your child is a great way to see what's going on.
Facetime	FaceTime allows you to make video and audio calls from your Apple devices using the internet.	13+	FaceTime allows you to block someone that is calling you. Just tap on the 'i' next to their name, scroll down and tap 'Block this Caller'
Fifa Football	FIFA Football is a gaming app where you can build and manage your own football team.	13+	Restrict in app purchases with FIFA Mobile. They can range from £1.99 to £99 and are simple for kids to do. Head to your settings page to make sure your kids and wallet are protected.
Moviestar Planet	MovieStarPlanet is an online game. You can create a famous movie star character to talk to others in the chat room, play games and watch videos.	8+	You can enter a parental email address during sign-up to MovieStarPlanet, which will allow you to restrict what your child can do. This also allows you to disable chat features.
Pokemon GO	Pokémon Go is a game where you collect and trade creatures called Pokémon (Pocket Monsters). It's one of the first popular games to use augmented reality - a cross between real life and an online world. The game makes it look like Pokémon appear in real life places by using the GPS and camera on your phone.	13+	<p>Location tracking /GPS – Pokémon Go uses location tracking. If you're worried about the company knowing who your child is by their account details, you might not want to use this app. You can turn off the location services in your child's phone settings for certain apps, but Pokémon Go won't work without location services enabled.</p> <p>In app purchases - There are in app purchases, game coins, and other incentives to level up - one purchase is listed at \$159.99. You can set Pokémon Go up without payment options, so you won't get any nasty surprises.</p> <p>Mobile data - Pokémon Go uses mobile data when you're not connected to wifi, so keep an eye on your child's data usage to avoid extra usage fees. You can set a limit on the phone to stop them going over.</p> <p>Viruses and hacks - Like Minecraft, illegal versions will spring up to entice people to get extras. Only download the game from official stores - iTunes and Google Play. There are fake versions already out there with viruses. Make sure anti-virus is up to date, and that downloads are authenticated.</p>

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Clash Royale	Clash Royale is a combat multi-player game where players can build their own battle communities. There is also a chat feature where you can talk to other players	13+	Clash Royale is a 'next generation' updated version of Clash of Clans. To protect your bank account, make sure you restrict in-app purchases.
CSR Racing	CSR Racing is a car racing game where you can buy and upgrade cars and race your opponent. You can buy your cars through winning races or in-app purchases	13+	Remember to restrict in-app purchases with CSR Racing. They can range from £1.99 to £99 and are simple for kids to purchase. Head to the settings page on your device to make sure your kids and wallet are protected.
Apex Legends	Gaining more than 50 million players within a month of launch, Apex Legends is a relatively new gaming sensation. Rivalling the popular game Fortnite, Apex Legends is a free-to-play Battle Royale game where players can team up with two other players to make a squad, and then compete against nineteen other squads in a bid to be the last ones standing. The game is similar to Fortnite but looks to be a grittier version.	16+	While you have to turn on voice chat to speak to others, the feature cannot be permanently turned off. There is no way of preventing players in your squad from talking to you, unless you mute them. The gaming platform doesn't enable players to be reported within the game, making it a harder and longer process to do so if another user is being inappropriate. Users can be reported through the Origin website or via a console account.
Fortnite: Battle Royale	The multiplayer action survival game, Fortnite: Battle Royale, has received a lot of media coverage recently due to growing popularity amongst children. The game involves 100 players fighting each other in real time to be the final survivor. There is cartoon violence in the game. You can use a variety of weapons to kill other players, such as guns and axes. There are in-app purchases, which can become expensive.	12+	Players can add friends in the mobile game if they have an account with Epic, the game's developer. Friends can be added by username in the game's main menu. There is a chat feature in the game that allows users to contact each other using voice or text. You can disable voice chat in the game by selecting the 3 lines in the top right of the screen, select the settings icon, choose the 'Audio' tab at the top of the screen and go to the 'Voice Chat' option, where you can select 'Off'. Players can be reported to the Player Support Team if you are concerned about activity or behaviour.

<p>TikTok</p>	<p>TikTok is a social media app where users can record and upload short video clips. In August 2018, TikTok merged with Musical.ly, meaning all users with Musical.ly accounts were moved to TikTok.</p> <p>The majority of clips in TikTok include young people lip syncing and dancing to songs or comedy sketches (skits). Users can watch clips posted by other members, and can set their videos to be viewed publicly to other users or privately to friends (also known as followers). Like Snapchat, TikTok has filters where users can record their videos. It also includes other additional video editing features such as slow motion or speeding up videos. What makes this app popular with young people is the collaborative element where TikTok users can reply to one another and do joint videos on a split screen or participate in user created challenges.</p> <p>TikTok users can send messages to each other within the app; privacy settings for this can be changed to allow a user to communicate with all other TikTok users or just to friends. TikTok has a similar social media element like Instagram and Twitter, where users can follow each other and like content.</p>	<p>13+</p>	<p><u>Privacy Control (Comment, Duet and Direct Message)</u> TikTok now offers more privacy controls. You can go to Privacy and Safety option under the app settings, view and adjust your privacy controls at any time.</p> <p><u>Comment Control</u> To control it on a global level: Go to Privacy and Safety settings Tap “Who Can Send Me Comments” Choose the “Everyone”, “Friends” (Mutual followers), or “Off”</p> <p><u>To turn off comments for an individual video:</u> Open the video you want to turn off Tap the menu button Select “Comments Off”</p> <p><u>Duet Control</u> To prevent people from creating duet videos with you: Go to Privacy and Safety settings Tap “Who Can Duet With Me” Choose the “Everyone”, “Friends” (Mutual followers), or “Off”</p> <p><u>Direct Message Control</u> To keep your direct message experience better and you can chat with person you trust and know: Go to Privacy and Safety settings Tap “Who Can Send Messages to Me” Choose accordingly</p>
<p>Kik</p>	<p>Kik is an instant messaging app. It lets you create your own username and message others without using your mobile number. You can share photos, organise events, share games, news and anything of interest to you from the internet</p>	<p>13+</p>	<p>Kik is a bit trickier than other messaging apps. On iOS you can block someone from their contact by clicking on 'Info'. With Android you click on the main menu, head to 'Chat info' and click on the top right hand corner to block.</p>

Discord	Discord is a voice and text app and site, designed for gamers. It allows you to voice and text chat across different platforms. Users can only message each other if they have accepted their follow request	13+	Discord has some robust privacy settings where you can choose to block entire servers or individual people. These settings are all available in the 'privacy setting' section. You can also restrict friend requests in 'user settings,' so that requests can only come from friends of friends.
Episode: Choose Your Story	The Episode: Choose Your Story app is a mobile storytelling network and platform which features cartoon characters that you create. Users are allowed to create their own stories with their characters and share it with other users.	13+	This popular game is great for creative children as it gives them the chance to write and become part of a story. Remember to head to the settings page and block in-app purchases as these can get very expensive with some stories costing up to £40 to complete.
Sarahah	Sarahah is a website where you can send completely anonymous comments and feedback to other users.	13+	This popular social networking site aimed at older teens can be linked with a user's Snapchat account. Anyone can comment on posts which increases the risk of cyber-bullying. To counter this, users can make their profiles private so only people they know can interact with them, via the settings button on devices.
Score! Hero	Score! Hero is a gaming app where you work your way up to over 580 levels by playing football	13+	A new alternative to FIFA or Pro Evo, this football playing app offers a realistic insight into players careers. There is a risk of in-app purchases which can be costly so head to your settings page to make sure your kids and wallet are protected.
Friv	Friv is a gaming platform that offers a wide variety of games to play, for free	3+	This platform, for accessing multiple games, does rely on in-app purchases. Head to your settings page on your device to ensure that you don't get any nasty bill surprises.
Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas	Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas is a video game where the player follows and directs the life of the central character, Carl in an open environment game. This means the player makes decisions and has free reign within a fictional city to complete a crime-ridden journey	18+	This game, aimed at older teens and adults, does not have many parental controls due to it's 18+ age restrictions. We recommend playing this game with your child to make an informed decision on whether it is appropriate for them.
Wattpad	Wattpad is a storytelling app where you can create, read and learn how to write stories. You can also join communities, share the stories you've written, and comment on others' stories.	13+	You can mute individual users on this app by clicking on their profile, then clicking on '...' and selecting 'mute user'.

Yubo	Yubo is an app that allows you to connect and chat to new people. Users can swipe right on someone else's profile to 'like' them, and swipe left to pass on to view other users' profiles. You can video chat and/or watch other people's live videos.	13+	You can click on 'Hide my City' inside the app to make sure no one can see where you are, and there is also a feature that lets you restrict friends by inputting a mobile number to find them.
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This information has been compiled using Net Aware. This is a network tool developed in collaboration by the NSPCC and O2.

Parents are able to access face to face advice and support by booking an appointment at an O2 store or through the contact details listed below – even if they are not O2 customers.

**Further help and advice**

- For practical support on privacy settings, parental controls and more call our online safety helpline on [0808 800 5002](tel:08088005002)
- Help for children and young people - call Childline on [0800 1111](tel:08001111)
- Concerned about online grooming or sexual behaviour online? [Contact CEOP](#)
- If you stumble across criminal content on the internet you should report it to the Internet Watch Foundation: [www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk)