Make your interest clear

Ask to see your child's favourite games and apps which will help you spot issues

Be open, honest, and appropriate to their age

When answering questions about puberty, relationships, etc.

Remind your child they can always talk to you

Even when they view harmful content, talking about it openly will help

Discuss that not everything we see online is real

Use examples from your own online world, like posts that show perfect houses

Try to remain calm

Your initial reaction could stop a child from speaking openly about what they've seen

Create a family agreement

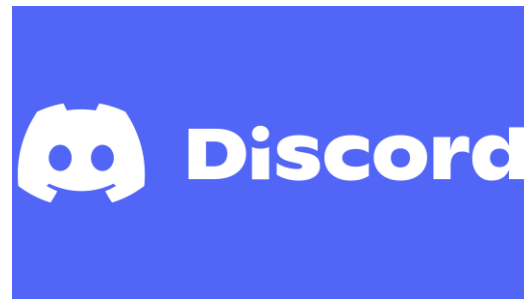About device use including when to use devices, parental controls and why it's good to talk

Keep talking

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Discord

Discord is an instant messaging and social platform for people with similar interests to share and communicate. Communication in done through video calls, text messaging and files. Communication can be private or take place in virtual communities called "servers", these are similar to groups on other social media sites.

What are the risks?

Inappropriate content

Because users may share images on servers or engage in voice chat, young users run the risk of being exposure to inappropriate content or language.

Relaxed settings

Like many social media sites, the default settings make it very easy for other users to discovers and chat to young users. Below is a quick guide on how to make discord for secure. Discord settings guide

Private servers

Many servers are private and require permission to join. This make it difficult look at the content being shared by the server from another device. While in a private server, young people can talk, listen and watch live videos of other users.

Adult only servers

Some Discord servers contain adult content and are labelled as only accessible to those over 18 years old. Anyone that opens the channel sees a warning message that lets them know that it might contain graphic content and asks them to confirm they are over 18 by pressing a simple yes button.

Staying safe online
Advice to share with your child

Tell a trusted adult if something upsets you

Take breaks from being online

Don't chat with strangers

Ask permission before downloading anything

Avoid sharing private photos

Don't give away personal information

Double check your news sources

Take notice of age restrictions

Stick to trusted apps

Be suspicious of new information

Show respect to others

Be honest with parents and carers

Apple Air Drop

Apple AirDrop is a feature within iOS, iPadOS and MacOS that enables users of Apple devices to wirelessly share and receive photos, documents, website, videos, notes, map locations and more with other Apple devices nearby.

What are the risks?

Anyone can share

strangers using Airdrop to send inappropriate material to young people's phones. As long air drop is enabled, the young person will receive any air drop files or messages sent from nearby devices.

Strangers can identify you

If Airdrop is turned on, then others close by can go into Airdrop on their iPhone and see the devices name (e.g. Janes iPhone) and profile pic. If a stranger then they could potentially identity you from the picture.

Accidental sharing

Airdrop can be used to share pictures and files to friends and family. If the incorrect setting is on, this could lead to strangers in the area also receiving the file. We recommend sharing via email or messages directly instead.

Turn it off

The safest thing a young person can do is to turn off Air drop. Check out this guide on how to turn off air drop for any young people using an apple product. How to turn off AirDrop

Online safety week

As part of online safety week, students have been learning how to spot fake news. More fake news is being shared on social media sites and we want student to be able to spot the misinformation, exaggerated headlines and opinion pieces from the facts. Here are our top tips for spotting fake news:

- Who wrote the article?
- Have you heard of this site before?
- Have any other sites reported on the same story?
- Does the article contain spelling and grammar mistakes?
- Does the article contain sensational language?

Common Apps

Below is a list of the most common apps being used by young people. This is not an extensive list but shows the platforms that have some of the biggest risks.

App	Age	Comment
	13 and over	**Discord** - is a voice, video and text chat app that's used by tens of millions of people aged 13+ to tap and hang out with communities or their friends. Parental settings can be found HERE
	13 and over	**Instagram** - is a photo and video sharing app where people can upload photos, videos and messages to share with others. Parental settings can be found HERE
	13 and over	**Snapchat** - is a very popular app that lets users swop pictures and videos (Snaps) with others which are meant to disappear after they are viewed. There is also a messaging feature. Parental settings can be found HERE
	13 and over	**TikTok** - is a social media app that allows users to create, watch and share short videos shot on mobile devices or webcams. Parental settings can be found HERE
	13 and over	**Twitch** - is where people come together to chat and interact live. Think YouTube, but it is live rather then pre-recorded. Parental settings can be found HERE
	16 and over	**WhatsApp** - is a messaging app which uses text, images, video and voice record features to connect with others. Parental settings can be found HERE
	18 and over	**Reddit** - is a network of communities (called subreddits) where people can share information, their interests and hobbies. Reddit is an 18+ app, there are no parental controls.