

Your Guide to Popular platforms

AN ONLINE SAFETY SHAREABLE



Messenger



An instant messaging app developed by Meta, popular for group chats, sharing images and videos. This app is also popular for playing games with friends. Can allow young people to connect with strangers, receive message requests from strangers and video call.

13+



Reddit



A platform which allows interactions through communities and discussion forums based on particular interests. There are no age verification systems for NSFW channels and can be easily bypassed to view inappropriate content. (NSFW forums are 18+)

13+



Discord



An instant messaging social platform, in which people enter 'servers' so they are part of a group – commonly used for gaming communities.

Some servers are NSFW (Not safe for work – often meaning inappropriate/adult content) and may have content age-inappropriate for younger users.



13+



YouTube



A popular video sharing and social media platform. Videos can be commented on, liked and shared.

Cyberbullying can occur through YouTube comments and age-inappropriate content may slip through moderation strategies deployed.



13+



Twitch



Twitch is a live streaming video platform which allows creators to broadcast and users to watch content, usually about games, including eSports. Twitch streams are often live and are therefore difficult to moderate.

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Yubo



A live-streaming platform designed to help users "meet new people" from all around the world. There have been multiple reports of young people being harassed into sending sexualised or nude images and videos.

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Kik



A mobile messaging app which allows one-to-one chatting, group chats and anonymous chats. Since Kik allows chatting with random strangers, it leaves children open to exploitation and grooming. Once messages are deleted, they cannot be retrieved.

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Snapchat



A popular image sharing and messaging app that lets users exchange pictures and videos (sends), with photo effects and filters, which disappear after a period of time. The 'disappearing snap' feature of Snapchat can lure young people into a false sense of security, and they may send images they would not normally send.

13+



TikTok



A free video sharing app which allows users to capture short video clips, share them and watch other user's videos or live streams.

Age-inappropriate content which can be accessed through public feeds, especially any live streams. This may be unsuitable for young people and can be the origin of bullying trends.

13+



BeReal



A once-a-day photo sharing app – Users are given a 2-minute window to share a photo of themselves and their surroundings to their friends. If young people accept contacts they don't know, it is easy to build up a picture of routines in daily life, for example, school uniforms, bus stops and regular locations.



13+



Vault Apps (Decoys)



Apps which allow users to secretly hide photos, videos and files behind the premise of another app, for example a calculator which can only be accessed through a numeric pin code. Can become dangerous 'stashes' of youth produced sexual imagery.



17+