



New devices



If your child has a new device, have you set up parental controls?

Consoles



All consoles offer parental controls such as limiting the time spent on the device or restricting who your child can communicate with. Find out the specific settings below:

- [PlayStation — Safety for parents \(UK\) \(playstation.com\)](#)
- [Xbox—Xbox family settings: peace of mind for parents | Xbox](#)
- [Nintendo Switch—Nintendo Switch Parental Controls | Hardware | Nintendo](#)

WhatsApp

You must be **at least 16 years old** to register for and use WhatsApp. WhatsApp is a free messaging app that allows you to send messages, voice notes, photos and videos.

What should I be aware of?

Group chats:

One of the key features is the group chat function. Everybody in the group, even if they are not one of your child's phone contacts, will be able to see all messages within that group. If your child is added to a group with someone that they have previously blocked, that person can still see their messages and send them messages within the group chat. In settings, you can change who can add your child to groups. You can leave a group chat at any point so talk to your child and encourage them to leave any chat that makes them feel uncomfortable.

Location sharing: You can share your location on WhatsApp. Talk to your child about when this would be appropriate to use but also the potential danger of sharing their location, for example with strangers.

Blocking/Reporting:

Show your child how to block and report other users or inappropriate content. You can find out how to do it based on your child's device here:

[How to block and report contacts | WhatsApp Help Center](#)

Mobiles/Tablets



You can set up parental controls and restrictions on most mobile devices, which can limit what your child can access. Additionally, make sure appropriate settings are applied on the apps your child is using .

- Apple devices : [Families - Apple \(UK\)](#)
- Android Devices: [Family Link from Google - Family Safety & Parental Control Tools \(families.google\)](#)

Further Information

Internet Matters provide a checklist here:

[Set up devices for children - Internet Matters](#)

YouTube

YouTube is intended for users over the age of 13 (however, children of all ages may use the Service and YouTube Kids if enabled by a parent/legal guardian).



What if my child is under the age of 13?

If your child is under the age of 13 then your child should use either YouTube Kids or a Supervised Account. Which option you choose, will depend on your child's age and your requirements. - YouTube Kids – this is a separate app that includes a smaller selection of videos based on the age you select:

- Preschool (ages four and under)
- Younger (ages 5–8)
- Older (ages 9–12)



Supervised accounts

This is a parent-managed version of YouTube. You can select one of the following options, again depending on your child's age and your requirements:

Explore - Generally for viewers aged 9+.

Explore more - Generally for viewers aged 13+

Most of YouTube—This setting includes almost everything on YouTube except for videos marked as 18+ and other videos that may not be appropriate for viewers using supervised experiences. Google have created a table to show the differences between YouTube Kids and a Supervised account to help in your decision: [Understand your choices as a family - YouTube Help \(google.com\)](#)

How can I make YouTube safer?

[Explore YouTube together](#) and see what they like to watch. Make sure your child understands that they can talk to you if they see anything that makes them feel uncomfortable online.

Restricted mode - is an additional setting (when logged in via a Google account) to restrict the availability of mature content. - Ensure your child knows how to report inappropriate content/comments. Find out more here: [Report inappropriate videos, channels, and other content on YouTube - Computer - YouTube Help \(google.com\)](#)

Online resources for parents

NSPCC—[Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)

ThinkUKnow— [CEOP Education \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](#)

UK Safer Internet Centre—[Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre \(Saferinternet.org.uk\)](#)

NDCS—[Online safety deaf children | Keep deaf children safe on the internet \(ndcs.org.uk\)](#)