

Top Tips for keeping children safe online

1. Know which apps or websites your children are accessing
Some apps can put children at risk
2. Make sure all accounts are private and have strict privacy settings
Public accounts can be accessed by anyone, anywhere in the world
3. Monitor friends and friend requests
Children are encouraged not to add people they have never met
4. Ensure posts do not have any personal details (including pictures in school uniform)
This information may be used by unknown individuals
5. Remain calm if your children disclose a concern about an app
Children will often keep their concerns quiet because they worry about getting in trouble or having their favourite apps deleted

How to deal with your child's concern

If your children have seen something or spoken to someone that has made them feel uncomfortable or unsafe, you can help them by:

1. Reporting a problem on the app or website
2. Deleting friends that are causing concern
3. Changing privacy settings to ensure that they are at the highest possible level
4. Starting a new account
5. Delete the app if necessary

How old do you need to be to use certain Apps?

All apps are given an age rating based on the content that can be accessed via the App. Apps that allow users to make contact with other users are usually given a higher age rating than those that do not have these features. Unfortunately, due to this feature, children are put at risk when playing these games. Through interactive games and Apps, children can be contacted by any user, anywhere in the world. These users are not always other children. Often, adults use these Apps as a platform to make contact with children as it allows their identities to be hidden. In some instances, these users will also download images of children that are put on public accounts. Sometimes these are later used against the children they were taken from. For this reason, it's recommended that these accounts are kept private. Accounts such as Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook and YouTube are extremely popular with children and can all be used safely if privacy settings are strict. This means that the account is **private** and that children only add contacts that they already know. Although this will inhibit children from getting large numbers of 'likes', it also prevents their images from being used by other individuals and will prevent them from being contacted by users they do not know.

Here are some Apps and their age rating that we highly recommend both children and adults take seriously.

Age 13+