

## **App information for parents**

Information from ...

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/apps-guide/social-networking-and-meeting-apps/>

### **YouTube**

YouTube is a social video platform that allows young people to not only watch videos from their favourite YouTubers or vloggers but also share comments with each other about what they are watching. With so many people commenting, liking and creating content for their own channels, it has become one of the biggest social networking platforms around the world with over 2 billion active users.



**Cost: Free | Minimum age: 13**

Parent controls information:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/youtube-app/>

Youtube kids parent control guide

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/youtube-kids-app/>

### **Instagram**

A photo-sharing app that allows you to edit photos and videos, upload them and share them to other social networking sites. Photos and videos can be sent directly to friends.

**Cost: Free | Minimum age: 13**

Instagram information for parents:

<https://about.instagram.com/community/parents>

Instagram safety for parents:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/instagram-safety-a-how-to-guide-for-parents/>



### **TikTok**

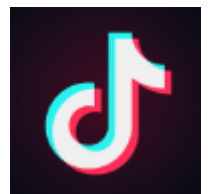
TikTok is a popular social networking app that allows users to create musical clips and short clips up to 60 seconds and add special effects to them.

**Cost: Free | Minimum age: 13**

Parent safety guide <https://www.tiktok.com/safety/resources/for-parents?lang=en>

What parents need to know:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/tik-tok-app-safety-what-parents-need-to-know/>



## **Facebook**

The Facebook app allows you to share personal information, status updates, pictures, videos and chat with a network. The GPS feature is worth understanding – ‘Nearby Friends’ allows you to see your friends’ current locations on a map.

**Cost: Free | Minimum age: 13**

Facebook privacy guide: <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/facebook/navigating-social-media-safely>  
<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/facebook-instagram-whatsapp-tools-to-navigate-social-media-safety/>

## **Facebook messenger**

The Facebook Messenger app is a free messenger app that connects with the Inbox in Facebook and allows users to share photos, videos, audio and can be used for group chats.

**Cost: Free | Minimum age: 13**

Parents guide:

<https://www.webwise.ie/parents/explained-what-is-messenger/>



## **Snapchat**

Snapchat is a photo-sharing app where users can send photos or videos to their friends. These will display on screen for up to ten seconds before being deleted, although it is possible to screenshot messages and use other apps to capture the content. Snapchat could be used for messages of a sexual nature or also mean messages.

**Cost: Free | Minimum age: 13**

Safety tips

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/snapchat-safety-a-how-to-guide-for-parents/>

Privacy guide: <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/snapchat/>



## **Whatsapp**

Free-of-charge, real-time messaging. You can share images and videos, take part in 'group chats' and share locations. You can only message someone if you already know their telephone number.

**Cost: Free | Minimum age: 16**

Privacy guide and parent controls

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/whatsapp/>

Safety guide

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/facebook-instagram-whatsapp-tools-to-navigate-social-media-safety/>



## **Twitter**

The Twitter app works in a similar way to the desktop version of Twitter, except that when you tweet you can also post the location of where you're tweeting from.

**Cost: Free | Minimum age: 13**

Parental control

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/tiktok-privacy-and-safety-settings/>



## **Discord**

Discord is a free voice and text chat app that is often used by young people to communicate with others while gaming online and streaming live video. Known as 'skype of gamers' it helps players to communicate with each other through private servers that enable voice, video and text.

**Cost: Free | Minimum age: 13**

Parent guide: <https://blog.discord.com/parents-guide-to-discord-c77d91793e9c?gi=5019849e85ce>



## **Telegram messenger**

Telegram is an app available on both mobile and desktops, allowing free and safe messages for the sender. Like WhatsApp, the app encrypts messages and gives you the ability to destroy them if unwanted.

**Cost: Free | Minimum age: 16**

Parent guide: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/telegram-messenger/>



## What are the risks of an underage social networking account?

- Many sites include an instant message function that allows private conversations between site members.
- Most social networking sites have an app version available, meaning your child will have access to the social network from their smartphone or tablet. Some app versions of social networks use the location of the phone.
- Information shared between friends can be easily copied and may spread.
- It isn't easy to take back information that has been posted – and can be impossible if it's already been shared.
- Not everyone your child meets online will be who they say they are. Chatrooms and forums can connect people who are complete strangers and can be unmoderated.
- Chatrooms and forums are some of the places online groomers go to connect with children. They can also be places where people use a lot of sexual language and engage in online flirting. This is sometimes done through video chat programs.

**This documentary on Netflix is interesting about the power of social media**

***“The Social Dilemma”***

<https://www.netflix.com/gb/title/81254224>