



# Safeguarding for Houseparty



## What is it?

A social networking platform for video chatting with friends

## Age restriction:

13 and over but there is no age verification process

## Great for:

- **Dropping in and out of chats with friends**, creating the feeling of going into different rooms at a party
- Playing **classic party games**, such as Heads Up and Trivia
- Only getting **friend suggestions from people in your contacts**

## How can you make it safer?

- **Private mode** automatically prevents strangers joining all chats
- The 'lock' icon at the bottom of the screen will **prevent others joining individual chats**
- Keep **location services off** when you're not using the app
- **Talk!** Be interested in what games users are playing and who they are talking to
- **Ghosting** hides your presence from selected people
- **Sneak into the house** hides your 'in the house' notifications from everyone else
- **Stranger Danger** lets everyone in the room know if a third party has been added

## Risks:

- **Chats are live and unmoderated**, so users could be exposed to inappropriate content
- **Strangers can join** into conversations as links to chats can be shared publicly and acquaintances of all friends in a chat can join in, without invitation
- **Users all get a push notification when their friends are online**, causing users to feel pressure to join in, or causing them to feel left out if friends are online, but not speaking to them



# Safeguarding for Snapchat



## What is it?

an app to exchange user-generated photos, texts, videos, and calls.

## Age restriction:

**13 and over** but no age verification.

## Great for:

- Fun **photo and video filters**, geofilters, and live chats.
- The **discover** feature keeps users updated with news, brands, and their favourite celebrities.
- You can create **stories** of photos and videos.
- **The disappearing act** - default settings automatically delete messages and photos once viewed.

## How can you make it safer?

- Snapchat is for keeping in touch with close friends and family, so **decline requests from strangers**.
- **Use Ghost Mode** to always keep user location private on the Snap Map. Expectations can be made for particularly close friends and family.
- Keep account settings **private** to restrict who can make contact and view stories.
- **Immediately report** inappropriate content within the app.
- Users should **block connections who make them uncomfortable or who they don't know**.
- Encourage young people to **think about what they send**.
- Let them show you the app and **ask questions**; who are they talking to? What filters do they use? What platforms are they following on Discover?

## Risks:

- **Snaps can be screenshot**, captured off another device, or someone may use third party apps to record snaps, so users should be cautious of what they send.
- **Any user can add anyone else as a 'friend'**: users can't receive a Snap unless a friend request is accepted but it just takes one click.
- **Unwanted or explicit messages or photos** are a risk on most platforms but the disappearing nature of Snaps means that, while users can report to Snapchat, evidence of verbal or sexual harassment won't be immediately accessible to parents, guardians, or police.
- Snap Map will show a connection's **live location** if Ghost Mode isn't switched on, a particular risk if users are connecting with those they don't know well.



# Safeguarding for TikTok



## What is it?

An app giving users the opportunity to **share short videos** with the world.

Content includes special effects, with funny sketches, stunts, lip-syncs, and so much more.

## Age restriction:

**13 and over** but no age verification process

## Popularity

TikTok has over **a billion users!** It is particularly popular for those age 13 to 24.

## Great for:

- **Expressing yourself**, gaining a following, and building a community who share interests.
- Impressive **special effects** and video editing tools make it easy to create **unique and creative content**.
- Users with even the smallest followings can go **viral overnight** with good content.
- The app **adapts to your interests**, so the more you watch one type of content, the more of that you'll see.

## Risks:

- By default **all accounts are public** so anyone on the app can see what you share and **your location**.
- Strangers can **directly contact users** on the app.
- Really **risky behaviour** gets a lot of attention, for example jumping across buildings, tempting some users to take excessive risks to build their following.
- Some content covers **sensitive topics**, such as serious mental health issues; the longer a user watches content for, the more of it they will see.

## How can you make it safer?

- Accounts can be made **private**.
- **'Restricted mode'** filters out inappropriate content.
- The app considers **digital wellbeing**, alerting users who have been on the app for more than two hours. Is the person you're working with getting these kind of notifications?
- **Ask who they follow on Tiktok** and take a look at what those users post; it'll give you insight on what interests them and what they might be dealing with.



# Safeguarding for Twitch



## What is it?

A **video live** streaming service

## Age restriction:

13 and over

## Great for:

- **Interacting** with gamers, musicians, and esports competitors, through creative content, and video game playthroughs.
- Finding creative content for things like art, cooking and fitness.
- **Quickly build live connections** with people who have similar interests.
- Within certain parameters, some gamers can **make money through views** and subscribers.

## How can you make it safer?

- **Explore the app together** - be open to talking about what content is, what you both like, and be open about what content is concerning.
- **Ask questions** and talk about why content might be concerning, or not.
- Channel owners can appoint **chat moderators** and have all new users agree to rules before joining.
- **'AutoMod'** can block certain offensive words before they are published to the channel.
- If a user is breaking Twitch's Terms of Service or Community Guidelines, any user can file a report, and **block that user**.
- Encourage users to find **age appropriate communities** that are friendly, so content will reflect that.
- Users can **block Whispers** (private messages) from people they don't know.

## Risks:

- Live streaming is **unpredictable**, which makes it difficult to know what young people are watching.
- Some streams have a subculture of **adult or sexual themes and bad language**.
- Young people are at risk of **grooming** and explicit content, through Whispers, which are private messages from strangers.
- There can be some **violent content** through gaming streams.