YOUR SUMMER 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.
16+

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.
17+

WhatsApp
A popular messaging platform which allows group chats, video and audio calls. WhatsApp users have been subject to scams and malware spreading through the platform.
16+

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+

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.
16+

Telegram
A cross-platform messaging app which allows communication between individuals, small and large groups of up to 200,000 people. The ability to connect with others in the area may lead to young people to disclose locations and personal details that could lead to grooming or harassment in-person.
16+

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+

Snapchat
A popular image sharing and messaging app that lets users exchange pictures and videos (snaps), 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+

Instagram
An image and video sharing app. Users can share content that followers can interact with by viewing, liking and commenting. Instagram may push a narrative of a 'perfect world' to young people, and they may feel pressured to post perfect, polished images of themselves.
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.
18+

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.
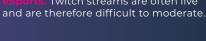**13+**

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.
13+

NETFLIX NOW Disney+
Streaming services which often involve paid subscriptions which offers a variety of TV shows, movies, gaming streams and more. Netflix shows such as 'Squid Game' and '13 Reasons Why' went viral and attracted the attention of young people, despite not being appropriate for under 18s. Parental controls which restrict access to age-inappropriate content e.g. profile PIN codes.
13+ **16+** **18+**

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+

- Messaging and Community Platforms
- Image and Video Sharing Platforms
- Streaming Platforms
- Vault Apps