

Online Safety

newsletter

OCTOBER 2025

YOUTUBE

YouTube is one of the most popular platforms, available across many different devices - phones, tablets and Smart TVs etc. YouTube is intended for users over the age of 13, however, younger children can still access YouTube with consent from a parent/ guardian. There are different options available to access YouTube, depending on your child's age:

1. **YouTube Kids** – a separate app that includes a smaller selection of videos based on the age category you select: Preschool (ages 4 and under), Younger (ages 5–8) or Older (ages 9–12).
2. **Supervised accounts** – a parent-managed version of YouTube that allows you to control the content your child can access. You can select one of the following options:
 - Explore - Generally for viewers aged 9+.
 - Explore more - Generally for viewers aged 13+
 - Most of YouTube - This setting includes almost everything except for videos marked as 18+.

Find out more: <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10315420>

What do I need to be aware of?

- Whilst YouTube can be educational and fun, it is important to be aware of the potential risks:
 - Inappropriate content
 - Excessive Screentime – particularly due to the autoplay feature.
 - Unwanted contact / cyberbullying – particularly via comments if your child is sharing videos.

What can I do?

- Set up appropriate parental controls.
- Show your child the reporting and blocking tools available.
- Watch YouTube together or supervise use.



Further information

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

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ITALIAN BRAINROT



Have you heard of Italian Brainrot? It is a viral trend consisting of AI generated characters featuring in memes and videos. It originally started on TikTok but can now be seen on other platforms such as YouTube and Instagram. There are also lots of spinoff content including a game on Roblox.

Whilst the content is generally nonsensical and children will find some of it funny, some content can include inappropriate or offensive language and content that might not be suitable for your child's age.

iOS 26



Apple have released their new operating system – iOS 26. Protect Young Eyes have published an article detailing the changes relating to your child's safety, including content filtering in Safari.

Find out more here:

<https://www.protectyouneyes.com/blog-articles/a-parents-guide-to-ios-26>

WHATSAPP

WhatsApp is incredibly popular with young people and is used for group chats, voice messages and video calls. Users should be at least 13 years old to use WhatsApp.

We frequently receive reports of children using WhatsApp inappropriately, such as sharing images to embarrass others, sending hurtful messages, spreading rumours, or excluding people from group chats to make them feel left out. Since WhatsApp lacks parental controls, it is important to think about whether it is really the right platform for your child. For example, you should consider if your child has the critical thinking skills to recognise bullying. Furthermore, do they understand how to manage peer pressure and refrain from joining in on hurtful behaviour?

What can I do?

- Check privacy settings, for example check who can add them to groups.
- Ensure your child understands that they can leave a chat at any time.
- Show your child how to block and report other users.
- Use parental controls such as screentime controls or do not disturb to reduce alerts.
- Talk about who they are chatting with.

