

Popular apps and games to be aware of

APP/GAME	WHAT IS IT?	LISTEN OUT FOR PUPILS TALKING ABOUT:
TikTok	• Users share short videos of themselves, often lip-syncing to music, and watch other people's videos • You can gain 'fans' and follow other people • There are often 'challenges' that spread among users • The app uses algorithms to feed users more related content, which can push them towards niche or unsettling videos	• Videos that sound inappropriate • 'Challenges' that are potentially dangerous • Strangers they've made contact with through TikTok • Content about eating disorders, self-harm and bullying • Things they heard or saw on TikTok that don't sound true, or might be fake news
Snapchat	• Picture, video and message-sharing with contacts • 'Snaps' disappear and aren't saved on phones • Known for sharing nude and semi-nude images	• Sharing explicit images and requests for photos • Screenshots of 'Snaps' being shared • Strangers they've made contact with • Videos and photos that sound inappropriate
YouTube	• A website and app where users can watch videos uploaded by other people • Users can also watch live streams of other people • Users can upload their own videos and leave comments on other people's videos	• Uploading videos of things that happen at school • 'Challenges' that are potentially dangerous • Videos that sound inappropriate • Other pupils' videos that they've found, and making fun of the person who made the video

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Instagram	• Users upload photos and videos to their profile, and can live stream to other users • You can gain followers and follow other people, as well as comment on other people's photos and videos • Users can private message each other, send each other private photos and videos, and upload to a daily 'story' that other users can see for 24 hours	• Sharing explicit images and requests for photos • Screenshots of private messages or photos being shared • Pictures or videos that sound inappropriate
Twitch	• A website and app where users can watch videos and live streams of other users, typically playing computer games • They can also live stream themselves and private message each other	• Strangers they've made contact with • Inappropriate content they've seen
Kick	• Like Twitch, a website where users can watch videos and live streams of other users • Computer gaming streams are popular, as well as gambling	• Strangers they've made contact with • Gambling • Inappropriate content they've seen
WhatsApp	• A messaging app where users can message each other by text, video and voice notes • Users can also video and voice chat with each other	• Strangers they've made contact with • Pictures or videos that sound inappropriate • Screenshots of private messages or photos being shared
Discord	• A messaging platform where users can message, video and voice call each other, and join servers to talk to lots of other people • Originally used for communication while playing computer games	• Strangers they've made contact with • Pictures or videos that sound inappropriate • Ideas or beliefs that sound extreme

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Minecraft	• A game where players explore online worlds. They can use 'blocks' to customise the world and create new parts • Players buy 'Minecoins' with real money, and then exchange them for in-game extras such as outfits for their character or new worlds to explore • Players can communicate in multiplayer worlds using text chat	• 'Griefing', where someone intentionally ruins the game for other users • Contact with strangers • Spending lots of 'Minecoins', which means spending lots of real money
Roblox	• An online game creating system where you can create and publish games and activities, and play in other users' games • Players can buy 'Robux' with real money, and then exchange them for in-game upgrades such as special outfits or abilities for their character	• 'Griefing', where someone intentionally ruins the game for other users • Contact with strangers • Players spending lots of 'Robux', which means spending lots of real money
Fortnite	• A game where players build structures, as well as fight computer-controlled monsters and other players • The most popular game mode, 'Battle Royale', pits 100 players against each other, either alone or in teams of up to 4 • Players can communicate with each other using pre-determined icons, and with their teammates over voice chat • Players can buy 'V-Bucks' with real money, and then exchange them for in-game extras such as outfits	• 'Griefing', where someone intentionally ruins the game for other users • Contact with strangers • Players spending lots of 'V-Bucks', which means spending lots of real money

Further information

This factsheet was produced by [The Key Safeguarding](http://www.thekeysupport.com/safeguarding): www.thekeysupport.com/safeguarding

- [TikTok is filled with pro-eating disorder content, despite its own rules, BuzzFeed](https://www.buzzfeed.com/cameronwilson/tiktok-eating-disorder-videos-algorithm-for-you-page)
<https://www.buzzfeed.com/cameronwilson/tiktok-eating-disorder-videos-algorithm-for-you-page>
- [TikTok app safety – what parents need to know, Internet Matters](https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/tik-tok-app-safety-what-parents-need-to-know/)
<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/tik-tok-app-safety-what-parents-need-to-know/>
- [Livestreaming and online video apps, NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/livestreaming-online-video-apps/)
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/livestreaming-online-video-apps/>
- [What is Kick, the streaming platform that's signed up xQc?](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-66044165)
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-66044165>
- [Online games, NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-games/)
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- [How can I keep my child safe on Instagram?](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/keeping-children-safe-on-instagram/)
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/keeping-children-safe-on-instagram/>
- [Six features to help keep your child safe on YouTube](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/how-to-keep-your-child-safe-on-youtube/)
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