



Parents E-Safety Newsletter

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Welcome to the latest edition of the Parent's Esafety newsletter. This time we are looking at the social networking sites YouTube and Instagram, which are used by many children and young people.



Instagram

Instagram is a photo and video sharing website and app. However, it is far more than that: it is in fact a social network where users need a profile and can like and comment on other people's photos and videos.

Although, the age limit for Instagram is 13, many children in year 5 upwards are now using Instagram both for the photo sharing but more importantly for staying touch with their friends. Users of Instagram need to be aware of the following:

- Privacy settings always default to public, which means any Instagram user can see photos and comments – you need to make the account private to allow only Followers to be able to see them
- You can choose to share posts with only a few Followers by using Instagram Direct
- There is the option to map your photos using geolocation – this defaults to Off – think carefully before revealing the location where photos were taken
- Remember that anything posted on social media can be shared to third parties and may be effectively permanent – think before you post
- For **further information** see the Instagram Help Centre <https://help.instagram.com/>

Top tip: keep devices that connect to the internet in family spaces rather than bedrooms



YouTube

YouTube is fantastic for learning how to make loom bands, for watching music videos or finding out how to create things in Minecraft. However, because content can be uploaded by anyone, children and young people may come across inappropriate content even when they are not seeking it out. YouTube's community guidelines state that users of the site should be 13.

The guidelines are also clear that content including violence, nudity, sexualised images is not appropriate and that the site should not be used to show material that is gory or shocking or attacks protected groups.

Here are some hints and tips to help your child have a positive experience:

- **Watch with your children** – children will often really want to share the videos they enjoy.
- **Check related videos** – the related videos on the right-hand side of the screen will give an idea of whether the content is appropriate – check out the comments below the videos too.
- **Use safety mode** – click the *Safety on* option on the computer or mobile site or use *Safe search filtering* options on Android/Apple devices (see Privacy and Safety options on Youtube site)
- **Consider subscribing** – If your child likes videos by a particular creator, encourage them to subscribe to that channel. They can also create playlists, which may reduce their searching around for unknown items, and means you can check the content of those videos.
- **Flagging** – flag any inappropriate content. YouTube will remove content that breaks the community guidelines. Repeat offenders may also have their accounts disabled.
- For **further information** go to the YouTube Safety Centre <https://support.google.com/youtube/>