

Popular apps and games to be aware of

APP/GAME	WHAT IS IT?	LISTEN OUT FOR PUPILS TALKING ABOUT:
TikTok	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picture, video and message-sharing with contacts • 'Snaps' disappear and aren't saved on phones • Known for sharing nude and semi-nude images 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing explicit images and requests for photos • Screenshots of 'Snaps' being shared • Strangers they've made contact with • Videos and photos that sound inappropriate • Features that share pupils' location with others, such as the 'Snap Map'
YouTube	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing explicit images and requests for photos • Screenshots of private messages or photos being shared • Pictures or videos that sound inappropriate
Twitch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strangers they've made contact with • Inappropriate content they've seen
Kick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like Twitch, a website where users can watch videos and live streams of other users • Computer gaming streams are popular, as well as gambling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strangers they've made contact with • Gambling • Inappropriate content they've seen
WhatsApp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strangers they've made contact with • Pictures or videos that sound inappropriate • Screenshots of private messages or photos being shared • Groups or 'group chats' that could be being used to bully other pupils
Discord	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A messaging platform where users can message, video and voice call each other, and join servers to talk to lots of other people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strangers they've made contact with • Pictures or videos that sound inappropriate

APP/GAME	WHAT IS IT?	LISTEN OUT FOR PUPILS TALKING ABOUT:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Originally used for communication while playing computer games 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ideas or beliefs that sound extreme
Minecraft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> '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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An online game creating platform 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> '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 Potentially inappropriate content in player-made games and activities
Fortnite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> '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 Potentially inappropriate content in player-made games and activities

Remember – always watch out for changes in pupils' behaviour and report any concerns to your DSL.

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/)
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-games/>
- [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/)
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/how-to-keep-your-child-safe-on-youtube/>
- [Snapchat support – my location and ghost mode](https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/sections/5689797575188-My-Location-and-Ghost-Mode)
<https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/sections/5689797575188-My-Location-and-Ghost-Mode>