

Discord

Parent Guide — What you need to know about the gaming chat service

Age rating

13+

What is Discord?

Discord is an **online chat service** that can be used on an app or in a browser. It focuses on **communities of people with the same interests** and is **very popular with gamers**. Unlike its rival [Twitch](#), Discord is not designed to host live streams that audiences can tune into.

How does it work?

Discord uses **public and private servers** – which act like chat rooms, allowing users to **text, voice chat and video message**. Users can also share **videos, images, links, music** and more.

Each server has its own **rules** – and **moderators** have responsibility to ensure a **safe, healthy environment**.

What risks should I be aware of?

The **13+ age rating is there for a reason** – but Discord doesn't have a robust age verification system, so **younger users can easily access the platform**.

There is the risk on public servers of **inappropriate or harmful interactions with strangers**.

Your child could also be **exposed to inappropriate comments** in chats. Although text is filtered, video and voice chat is not.

What can I do?

Familiarise yourself with the **user safety and privacy settings**. You can set up a filter to **block explicit or abusive messages**. You can also protect an account with **two-factor authentication**.

It is also important to understand the **blocking and reporting tools** so that your child knows how to **respond if something goes wrong**.

What else should I know?

To avoid unwanted interactions, suggest your child **only joins private servers where they know other members** and **avoids public servers with large followings**.

If your child wants to start **their own server**, they can **set it to invite-only** – and encourage their friends to **not share the invite link**.

It is important to talk through these if your child is using Discord – and let them know they can **come to you with a problem**. Agreeing decisions and boundaries will help **develop their digital resilience**.