

Social Media Apps

What age should my child be to use these apps?



Is your child too young to use the apps but is still asking you if they can join social media?

Then you could suggest an alternative option. Internet Matters list several apps that have been created for younger children, they are grouped for ages 6 – 10 and ages 11 – 13:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-networks-made-for-kids/>

Net Aware provide further information about the most popular apps, games and social media sites:

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/>

Most smartphones allow parents and carers to choose which apps and features appear on their child's device and which ones don't.

These handy guides to parental controls for managing apps on iPhones or androids will help you to reduce the chance of your child using a game or app that might not be appropriate for their age.

In the guide, you'll find tips such as how to block app downloads, how to stop auto-updates and how to restrict apps.

iPhone

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/hub/view/guide/parental-controls-for-iphone-apps>

Android

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/hub/view/guide/parent-controls-for-apps-android>

WhatsApp: View once

WhatsApp have introduced a new view once feature when sending photos and videos. This means that once the photo/video has been viewed, the recipient can't see it again and they won't have the ability to forward or save it.

You need to be aware that if your child is using WhatsApp, that they understand that even if they use this feature, the recipient could still take a screenshot or screen recording of the photo/video before it disappears without you knowing. They could then share this with other people.

More information available here:

<https://faq.whatsapp.com/general/chats/about-view-once/>

