Find my phone

Did you know that you can set up location settings on your phone (and for your child) so you can share your location and find out where they are? Talk to your child about why you are setting this up and when and why you will check their location. Find out more using the links below.

Apple:
https://www.apple.com/uk/icloud/find-my/ or use this link if you have Family Sharing set up:
https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT201087

Android:
https://support.google.com/android/answer/3265955#zippy=%2Cstep-check-that-find-my-device-is-on or use this link if you have Family Link set up:
https://support.google.com/families/answer/7103413?hl=en

Don't share passwords

Does your child understand that they should not share their passwords with others? The risks include the other user viewing personal information about your child, they could take control of your child's account by changing the password and then use the account inappropriately or they could spend money from your child's account.

What if someone else posts a photo of your child on social media?

What can you do if somebody posts a photo of your child on social media? The UK Safer Internet Centre explores this question:

https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/help-%E2%80%93-someone-else-has-posted-photo-my-child-social-media

WhatsApp: group chats

You must be at least 16 years old to register for and use WhatsApp. WhatsApp is a free messaging app that allows you to send messages and videos.

Group chats
One of the main features is that it has a Group chat function that are set up by one person (who is the admin). Everybody in the group, even if they're not one of your child's phone contacts, will be able to see all messages within that group. *If your child is added to a group with someone that they have previously blocked, that person can still see their messages and send them messages within the group.* You can leave a group chat at any point so talk to your child and encourage them to leave any chat that makes them feel uncomfortable.

Change Group Privacy settings
In settings, you can change who can add your child to groups, for example, you can change the settings to 'my contacts', which means that only those in your child's contacts can add them to a group.
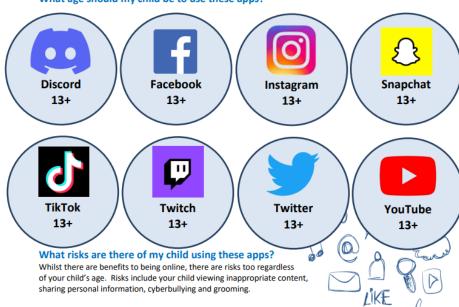
Online Bullying
WhatsApp has been used in instances of online bullying, for example sending nasty messages or sharing images of other children without their permission to embarrass them. It's important to have regular chats with your child about their online life and that they understand that they must talk to you or another trusted adult if they are being bullied. This is a helpful article from BullyingUK which talks about what to do if you are being bullied online:
https://www.bullying.co.uk/cyberbullying/what-to-do-if-you-re-being-bullied-on-a-social-network/

Social Media Apps
What age should my child be to use these apps?

Discord 13+   **Facebook 13+**   **Instagram 13+**   **Snapchat 13+**

TikTok 13+   **Twitch 13+**   **Twitter 13+**   **YouTube 13+**

What risks are there of my child using these apps?
Whilst there are benefits to being online, there are risks too regardless of your child's age. Risks include your child viewing inappropriate content, sharing personal information, cyberbullying and grooming.

Reporting functions
If your child is using any of the above apps then make sure you show them how to use the reporting facilities within each app and ensure your child knows that they must tell you or another trusted adult if they see anything upsetting online. Use the apps together and explore the different security and privacy settings.