



## What is Discord?

Discord is a voice and text chat app for desktop and phones that is designed specifically for gamers. Using the app, gamers can join voice channels for group chats, send messages in real-time, send one-to-one private messages and make video calls. The service is aimed at children aged 13 and over.

## What does it look like?



## Main Concerns for Parents

# DISCORD



### Accessing inappropriate content

As with any voice and text app service, there is a concern that your child may hear explicit language or see adult content from videos or messages other people have shared. Sharing images, particularly sexualised images, can also increase the likelihood of a child receiving inappropriate sexual contact from strangers online. In 2017, Gizmodo reported that messages depicting child pornography were being shared via Discord.

### Cyberbullying

In live chats and calls your child can't control what other people say, which may lead to them seeing or hearing something that they find upsetting. Last year a report claimed young gamers experience shocking levels of abuse online. Brighton-based anti-bullying charity Ditch the Label found that 64% of youngsters had been the targets of malicious trolling, half had experienced hate speech or been threatened and 45% said they had stopped playing an online game or considered it, because of bullying or trolling.

### Being targeted by strangers

There are always concerns that people pretend to be someone they are not on the internet, including scammers, hackers and online predators. There is the concern on Discord that people are able to send messages by joining a particular chat server, direct messaging the individual members, and then quickly leaving to avoid detection.

### Servers and tags

Discord allows people to create servers where you can send messages, pictures, videos, voice messages, and much more. Server owners can also create tags or nicknames for each individual in the server. While this can be quite fun, it can potentially be upsetting for a child if the server owner decides to change their nickname to something hurtful. It is important that your child feels comfortable in speaking to you or another responsible adult if this happens.

# DISCORD: Tips for Parents



## Understanding servers

Most of Discord's text and voice conversation happen within servers. Servers act as individual hubs split into two parts: text channels and voice channels. Your child can either create a server and invite friends to join them, or they can join a server they are invited to. They can also message each other individually or in group chats with up to ten other friends.

## Reporting problems

If your child encounters abuse, bullying, harassment or other issues, they can report the user or activity by sending an email to [abuse@discordapp.com](mailto:abuse@discordapp.com). Sit with your child and go through the app's Community Guidelines to discover what is deemed unacceptable behaviour at <https://discordapp.com/guidelines>.

## Encourage respect

Regardless of whether another user online is considered a friend, it is very important that your child knows how important it is to show respect in the same way as they do offline. Discuss with young people how they communicate with others online and what they think being respectful means.

## Limit friend requests

To control who can send friend requests, your child can open settings and click on the 'Friends' tab. There are three options to choose from to specify who can add them as a friend. 'Everyone' means that anyone who knows their DiscordTag or is in a mutual server can send a request, 'Friends of Friends' means they must have at least one mutual friend with your child and 'Server Members' enables any users who share a server with your child to send a friend request. Your child can select all three to receive no friend requests.

## Only chat to people they know

Advise your child that they should only speak to people online who they know. Some people may pretend to be a friend in order to build up an online relationship with your child. Remember to be mindful of who is on their server, and how this might affect what they do and don't talk about.

## Practice good security

Encourage your child to use passwords that are hard to guess and use a combination of numbers, letters, and special characters. They should never share their passwords with other people. They can also turn on 'Two-Factor Authentication' in their settings, which requires a time-based password (usually on a phone) in order to access their account.

## Avoid NSFW content

NSFW stands for Not Suitable For Wumpus, a little character on Discord who is under 18 years-old. Anyone who sets up a channel that shares content unsuitable for children must provide it with a NSFW label. Ensure your child knows to avoid trying to join such channels.

## Think about what they share

Although Discord is aimed at gamers sharing tips and tricks, and to chat during gameplay, it's worth reminding your child to think about what they share via chats and calls. As with anything that is posted and shared with other people and online, once it is up it is hard to take back. Once videos are shared online they become public and can attract the attention of online predators or someone who may threaten to share videos with others unless the child sends money or more videos.

## Block inappropriate content

There is an option to set up Explicit Content Filtering, which will automatically detect and delete images and uploads deemed inappropriate. You can find this option in Server Settings -> Moderation.

## Block people

If someone has been acting inappropriately or sends your child unwanted messages they can block them. In the app's privacy settings, your child can block direct messages from users in that server that aren't on your friends list. To block individuals, your child can click the three dots in the top right to pull up a menu that will let you block them.

