

What is it called

What does it look like?

ROBLOX

The self-proclaimed '**Imagination Platform**'. **Roblox** allows its users to create their own or play millions of online games. It is available to download as an app on both Android and IOS. It has a chat facility.

Age restriction; 7+



MINECRAFT

Set in infinitely-generated worlds of wide open terrain - icy mountains, swampy bayous, vast pastures and much more - filled with secrets, wonders and peril! Create your own worlds in Creative mode, or try to survive the monsters in Survival mode!

You can also join other players in their created worlds and work together to defeat the monsters or create a beautiful world to live in.

Age restriction; 7+



INSTAGRAM

A photo-based social media platform, which much like Facebook, you can share your memories with your friends, view their photos and interact on posts. Instagram profiles can be set to private, so that only your followers can see what you post. Live stream capabilities.

Age restriction;; 13+



SNAPCHAT

A messaging application used to share photos, videos, text, and drawings. There is one feature that makes Snapchat different from other forms of texting and photo sharing: the messages disappear from the recipient's phone after a few seconds. There has been a lot of controversy surrounding snapchat and its now-infamous 'snap-maps' allowing users to see exactly where their friends are. Live stream capabilities

Age restriction; 13+



GRAND THEFT AUTO / CALL OF DUTY

GTA and COD are very popular amongst young players, even though the both games feature graphic violence using guns, and actively encourage players to be as destructive as possible. GTA also features prostitutes, strip-clubs and 'secret' gang meetings.

Age restriction; 18+



FORTNITE

Pitting players against 99 others in a frantic fight for survival, where the last gamer standing is the winner. Its bright, cartoon-like graphics prevent it from descending into bloody violence, however many parents have reported children being highly addicted to the game, and becoming obsessed with the dances, add-ons and updates. Children can buy, and be gifted, skins (gaming enhancements).

Age restriction: 12+.



TWITCH

Twitch is an online live-streaming platform for gamers, where you can join your favourite twitch users and watch them play their favourite games, or live stream yourself playing your favourite games. Its free to use and free to stream, and millions of people use it everyday.

Twitch has a sign up age of 13, and you must have parental permission to use the app until you are 18.



DISCORD

Discord is a free voice, video and text chat app for teens and adults **ages 13 and up**. People use Discord to build private, invite-only groups. All conversations are opt-in, so anyone not interested in chatting can leave the group or block out certain people.



TIK TOK

TikTok is a free social media app that lets you watch, create, and share videos, mostly of lip-syncing to their favourite songs, but also for dancing, or even just talking. Tik Tok now has a feature where you can 'collaborate' with people on a song - these can be strangers that you may not have spoken to before. Live stream capabilities.

Tik-Tok requires users to be 13+, but commonsensemedia.org recommends users to be 16+. Parental guidance is advised.



YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video sharing website, where users can post their own videos, or watch their favourite YouTube 'influencers'. Its free to use and offers a whole host of things to the users. Teens love YouTube especially as they can explore things they are interested in and find whole communities of people who share those same interests. You can watch YouTube from any age but should be 13+ to have an account. You can try Kids YouTube for under 8's.

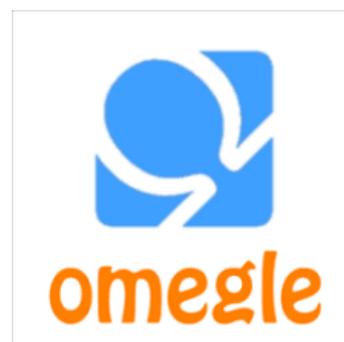
Live stream capabilities.



OMEGLE

Omegle is a website that allows you to chat with a random stranger via video or text (much like Skype, but you do not know who you are connecting with). Omegle is not suitable for young people. When you use Omegle you do not identify yourself through the service, you are just identified as 'stranger', however there are no moderations stopping you from sharing personal information.

Age restriction: 13+



This is a general guide of some of the most popular apps that children and young people are currently using. This list is not exhaustive and changes regularly.

For further information about keeping children safe online please contact me directly.
traci@onlinesafetyhub.co.uk