



Pros	Cons	Privacy	Reporting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple to personalise 'feed' – your child can be selective with whom they add or accept as friends, follow only pages they're interested in and join groups of like-minded people. Easy to hide posts and users they don't want to see or interact with without having to unfriend or unfollow. Option to categorise or segment their friends list so they can share posts with different groups of people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doesn't validate personal information or photos, so it is easy to pretend to be somebody else or create a new identity altogether. While the age requirement is 13-years-old, Facebook doesn't check this, therefore allowing children to access the platform at a younger age than it was designed for. Personal information is readily available – friends can often get access to phone numbers, addresses, school details, photos etc. However, there are ways to address this (see 'Privacy' section). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Via 'Privacy Settings' your child can customise the visibility of their personal information, photos and posts, choosing from everyone on Facebook, just their approved friends, or no one at all. Can select who is able to add them as a friend and send them private messages ('everyone', 'friends of friends' or 'no one'), and also whether their profile is searchable using their phone number and email address. Can easily check and change these settings via the mobile app. (Select 'Privacy Shortcuts' and there are plenty of options) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Variety of options available to report, block and hide people or posts. More information on what to do if you or your child wants to report something can be found here.

Facebook cheatsheet

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limits the amount of information your child can share publically – this includes a short biography, a location and a website. Trending topics and ‘moments’ allow your child to join conversations and hear a large variety of viewpoints. If some of these viewpoints contain swearing and inappropriate content, Twitter often censors these. Ability to mute tweets and accounts that contain certain keywords – more information on this can be found here. Ability to have a private account where only the followers your child accepts will see their posts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No way to validate that anyone is who they claim to be. Bullying (known as trolling) is particularly prevalent on Twitter. News updates are not fact-checked, so it is possible that your child may view ‘fake news’. This can be countered by encouraging them to use a range of trusted media sources and to ask questions if they don’t understand something. Twitter posts are indexed by major search engines, meaning anything your child posts may be visible to anyone who searches for a keyword included within their tweets, e.g. the name of their school or other personal information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All-or-nothing approach – once an account is private, the only information visible to others is their profile and any biography information. Anyone new who wishes to access to their profile has to request to follow them, and no one outside of their existing followers can send them a private message (unless they’re messaging someone with different settings). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to report tweets, moments and users, with categories of violations including irrelevant/not interesting (‘I’m not interested in this Tweet’), suspicious or spam, abusive or harmful, expresses intentions of self-harm or suicide. More details about reporting issues on Twitter can be found here. The site also has a section dedicated entirely to child sexual exploitation.

Twitter cheatsheet

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual way to engage with friends, families, celebrities and influencers – your child can take and edit their own pictures or simply like other people's. A creative outlet that can allow your child to express themselves and develop new skills and interests. Ability to have a private account where only the followers your child accepts will see their posts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fake accounts and easy-to-bypass age restrictions are not uncommon on Instagram. Anyone who clicks a hashtag can see all the public images that have used that hashtag, meaning your child's pictures could be seen by many more users than they intended. Tagging a location means everyone who clicks that location can see where your child has been and at what time they posted it. This can make it easy to paint a picture about where your child lives or regularly visits. Instagram Stories (short videos that only last 24 hours) are visible to all users unless profiles are set to private. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All-or-nothing approach. A private profile only shows photos and videos (including Instagram Stories) to your child's existing followers. Anyone new has to request to follow them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can report spam and abuse within the app. Features a help section for complaints about sexual or nude photo requests and people threatening to share private images, with helpful guidance for under 18s. More information can be found here.

Instagram cheatsheet

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Pros	Cons	Privacy	Reporting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fun and creative way for your child to keep in touch with friends and family, with simple editing tools and features. • Engaging game-like features, including streaks and winning emoji trophies for completing tasks. • Default privacy settings mean only friends can contact your child or view their story – this can be reduced further to a custom set of friends. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to screenshot and save images that weren't intended for saving. • Easy to create a fake profile without providing any personal information. • 'Snap Maps' allow your child to share their location very easily. Further, an option called 'ghost mode', which shows all friends' locations except for the user. • Ability to 'quick add' – means you could show up in someone else's 'Quick Add' if you share mutual friends or connections. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive privacy settings allow your child to control who can see their photos and send them photos in return. These can be changed in the 'Who Can...' section of their profile. See here for more on changing privacy settings on Snapchat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can easily report individual 'snaps'. Snapchat requirements mean your child can have other users blocked, but a reason must be stated, i.e. inappropriate photos, harassment etc. Find out more about reporting issues on Snapchat here and here.

Snapchat cheatsheet

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TikTok is fun and entertaining. It's a video-sharing site that showcases everything from duets and comedy skits to makeup transformations, all of which can be easily searched for using hashtags. It is also filled with fun, colourful, and seasonal graphics. It provides lots of creative inspiration – great for children and young people who are interested in making their own videos. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TikTok can feel frenetic. Short videos will play automatically as users scroll through their feeds. Many videos also contain music, so it can be loud and disruptive. Children can accidentally be exposed to content not intended for them. Viral “challenges” are big on TikTok. These can encourage dangerous behaviour. TikTok has made steps to remove inappropriate content (e.g. swearing, drug and alcohol usage, self-harm videos, sexualised content, dangerous challenges), but it can still slip through. You can reduce this threat by clicking ‘Restricted’ mode within settings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After being fined a record \$5.7 million for failing to seek age verification or shut down users under 13, TikTok has removed all accounts created by pre-teens, as well as launching a new child-friendly ‘kids only’ version of the app. In this version, children can still record content but are restricted from uploading it. Other restrictions include not having profiles or access to direct messaging and commenting. Users of the kids’ version can still watch videos as usual. When creating a profile on TikTok, the default settings mean that the profile is public to anyone. This is so users can rack up as many views as possible, gaining popularity. The risks of a public account include: cyberbullying, adult content, grooming. You can easily switch accounts to private via the Privacy and Setting page. You can also restrict interactions (like comments) to ‘friends’ or ‘off’. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can easily report an inappropriate video by tapping the share icon and then selecting report. Find out more about how to report inappropriate content.

TikTok cheatsheet

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