



YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video sharing platform owned by Google. You must be aged 13 or over to use YouTube. There is a separate service for children, YouTube Kids, for ages 4+.

01

Video Sharing

Content Creators can share videos with subscribers. To subscribe, users click the bell icon on a video or user profile. Videos can be: Public (available to all – default setting), Private (invite only, must have a YouTube account to view), Unlisted (shared by link, viewable to all).

02

Comments & Likes

Users can comment on videos, and 'like' or 'dislike' by clicking the thumb up/down icons. Users can report comments which are unpleasant or make them feel uncomfortable.

03

Private Messages

YouTube disabled the private message feature across its website on September 18th 2019.

04

Age-Inappropriate Content

YouTube has a 13+ age rating to protect children from accessing age-inappropriate content. Users can set YouTube to 'Restricted Mode' which screens out potentially harmful content, similar to parental controls. However, this does not filter all age-inappropriate material.

05

YouTube Live

These are real-time videos created by users, and often feature users talking while playing computer games (streaming). Due to the nature of a live stream, content may become inappropriate over the course of the video. Users can comment during the stream, frequently unmoderated. Games played during streams are usually age-restricted content.

06

Concerns

Comments on videos can include swearing and malicious and hateful content. High prevalence of cyber-bullying. The 'Suggested Videos' feature can show users increasingly inappropriate content. Viral 'Challenge' videos can encourage children to participate in dangerous activities. High risk of seeing videos showing sexual and/or violent content, drink, drugs & crime, and suicide & self-harm.

07

YouTube Kids

YouTube Kids is a service which filters out inappropriate content. It is aimed at ages 4+. Like the main service, YouTube Kids shows adverts alongside videos. Parents have the ability to select channels, collections & videos by age ratings for their children to watch. Ability to disable the search function and activate screen time limits.



Getting Help:

If social media has left you feeling depressed and anxious, or you have experienced any form of cyberbullying, you can talk to someone at ChildLine, a free confidential 24/7 helpline for children and young people. You can call 0800 1111 or chat online at www.childline.org.uk (ChildLine is run by the NSPCC.)

