

Due to the increase in the usage of electronic devices and the internet over the pandemic, there has been a significant rise in young children falling victim to online harm. The Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP) through its weekly meeting of the Contextual Safeguarding Hub (CS Hub) has in recent weeks become increasingly aware of young children accessing two social media sites in particular in which Children and Young People (particularly primary school age) have been traumatised through unintentionally viewing sexualised and abusive images of children and adults. These sites are called Omegle and Discord.



OMEGLE is advertised as 'a free online chat website that allows users to socialise with others without the need to register. The service randomly pairs users in one-on-one chat sessions.' The website also allows users to connect to webcams so they can be seen by the stranger they are talking to. It has an age rating of 18+ or 13 years + **(with parental permissions)**.



DISCORD is an App that lets people chat via text, voice or video in real-time. It is very popular with gamers, and with the right privacy settings and monitoring it can be used safely. The safest way to use Discord is to only accept friend requests and participate in private servers with people you know. Avoid open chat functions. Discord has an age rating of 13 years +.