

# All About twitch

Twitch is a livestreaming platform which offers users a fun and social way to record themselves or watch others doing a range of activities in real time. Although livestreamers are mostly playing games, they also broadcast themselves going to events or doing a range of activities. There are few limits on what can be shared on Twitch, which in turn poses significant safeguarding risks.

**You must be at least 13- years- old to register for an account. However, anyone under 18 has to be authorised by a parent or guardian who agrees to the terms and conditions.**

**LIVE**  
103,000 LIVESTREAMS  
AT ANY GIVEN TIME

41% OF USERS ARE  
BETWEEN 16-24

## !ALERT!

Twitch came under scrutiny when popular streamers broadcast inappropriate and sexual content. Even when the content is removed for breaking their Community Guidelines, there is still a risk of recordings being uploaded elsewhere. In some cases streamers had accounts reinstated, only to repeat the behaviour in another livestream.

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## TWITCH SAFETY SETTINGS

### Parental Controls

- ▶ Currently, there are no parental controls or "time limit" settings on Twitch.

### Reporting and Blocking

- ▶ Users can block receiving messages from others who don't follow them.

### Chat Feature

- ▶ Explicit language filters can be used to moderate language within a livestream chatroom.
- ▶ Users can pause or hide the livestream chat themselves.

### Privacy Settings

- ▶ All profiles are public and cannot be made private. This means anyone can view another user's profile at any time.
- ▶ Anyone can access and watch livestreams without registering.

## STREAMER AND VIEWER INTERACTIONS

Twitch users can follow other people's channels for free or subscribe for a fee. Users can interact with the live streamer through a chat feature, and can even donate in-platform currency called 'bits' to support them. There are also exclusive streamer features available for users with a paid monthly subscription.

## RISKS

### Exposure to explicit sexualised content.

If livestreams are not appropriately rated, children and young people may be exposed to explicit, sexual or harmful content on Twitch.

**Lack of parental controls.** Parents and carers can't enable safety measures on their child or young person's account or monitor what content they are exposed to.

**Ease of streaming.** Once an account has been made, the user is able to livestream immediately. Children may live stream themselves to strangers without thinking of the consequences.

**Concerns overing banning and moderation.** Twitch's moderation and the short lifespan of bans on streamers who break the rules (usually seven days) is concerning. Banned users can also easily start a new account.

**Ineffective age verification.** Although Twitch has added new age verification processes, under 13s can still access the platform as it does not require you to log in.

**Stranger interaction.** The platform encourages interaction, leaving young users open to communication with strangers.

**Gifting and spending.** Young people might feel pressured or encouraged to spend money on streamers.

## TWITCH TIPS

**Talk to the young person** in your care about livestreaming: what type of livestreaming do they like to watch?

**Encourage open and ongoing conversation** about everything they do and see online. Make sure they know they can come to their trusted adult if they see something that worries or upsets them.

**Check that they know how to protect their personal information.** This includes using usernames that don't give away any details about their real name, location or their other platform profiles.

**Talk about spending money online** in games and other platforms. Decide on a healthy spending limit together and, depending on their financial maturity, whether they should check with you first!