

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.

13+

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!