

# POPULAR PLATFORMS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT



18+

**NGL** (short for not gonna lie) is a space for users to “share their feelings without judgment from friends or societal pressures”, according to the app’s homepage. NGL encourages users to send anonymous messages, opinions, and feelings, requested specifically through a question “prompt”. Even though users have to be 18 to use NGL there is no age verification required. It’s easy to come across adult themes including sex, drink, drugs and abusive comments.



13+

**Kick** is a live streaming platform similar to Twitch and YouTube Live, allowing users to broadcast themselves playing games or chatting. However, it’s advised for users 18 and older due to controversies around gambling promotions and mature content. Kick offers a favourable revenue sharing model for streamers but has faced criticism for facilitating gambling-related sponsorships. Users will experience exposure to mature content and gambling activities.



18+

**Sugar Daddy UK** dating involves older, wealthier individuals (sugar daddies) providing financial support or gifts to younger partners (sugar babies) in exchange for companionship or intimacy. Reports indicate vulnerable young girls, including those under 18, are using sugar dating platforms to support alcohol and drug misuse. There is a need for improved platform moderation to protect children from exploitation.



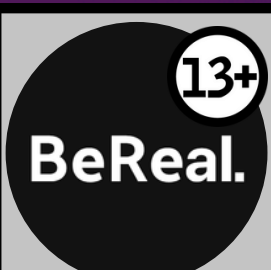
13+

**Yubo** previously called ‘Yellow’ allows users to chat, text and stream with other users. Users can swipe right on someone else’s profile to ‘like’ them, and swipe left to pass on to see other people’s profiles. You can direct message, video chat and livestream. This does sound a little like a dating app which is why we say treat with caution! Yubo allows users to stream live videos and chat with up to 10 friends. It encourages users to invite friends by giving rewards.



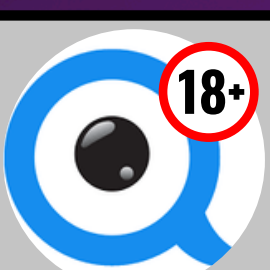
18+

**MeetMe** includes video chatting, messaging and streaming. There are 100+ million users on this platform. On MeetMe you can video chat with people nearby and all around the world. MeetMe says you can “Strike up a text or video chat with someone local who shares your interests. Or you can broadcast yourself out to the world and have the people come to you by streaming on Live.” Many reports of inappropriate content such as sex, violence & self-harm.



13+

**BeReal** is positive in that it encourages users to share their ‘real-self’, rather than their ‘best-self’ online. This supports users with their body image and self-esteem. However, it is important to recognise that this app encourages users to share lots of personal information. Therefore discuss the risks of oversharing online. It is important to discuss “friends”, including “friends of friends” when children and young people are considering who to add to their friend’s lists.



18+

**Tinchat** is an online chatroom that lets users chat via instant messaging, voice or video chat. There can be up to 12 live cameras in each room and unlimited viewers. Users can chat with friends or strangers. Unlike Omegle users have a choice over a chatroom to join and people with similar interests. Users must be over 18 but there is no age verification process. Users are likely to encounter inappropriate content because of the functions the platform offers.



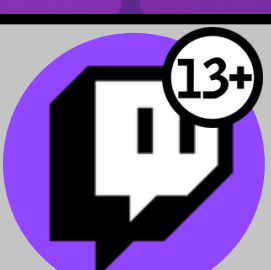
13+

**Kik** is an anonymous messaging app. It lets you create your own username and message others without using your mobile number. Users can choose to live stream, chat one-to-one or in group chats. As well as send photos and videos to other users. The ‘Meet New People’ feature lets you start a conversation with random users. You will also see in-app ads promoting online dating. We recommend you keep children as far away from this app as possible.



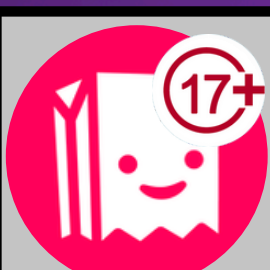
18+

**Wink** allows users to explore dates, hookups, friendships, FWB (friends with benefits), and chats on Wink—but be cautious. Wink is designed for adults seeking various relationships, including casual encounters. It’s important to note that this app is not suitable for children due to its adult-oriented content and potential risks associated with meeting strangers online. Parents and caregivers should ensure that minors are not using platforms like Wink.



13+

**Twitch** is one of the most popular live video game website. You can watch playbacks of games being played by other people. You can also live stream your own games, watch Esports and chat to other gamers. Young people using Twitch may be exposed to language or behaviour that parents may deem inappropriate. Many of the games watched have violent content, and anything live is always risky. Gamer chat means users can chat to other gamers live.



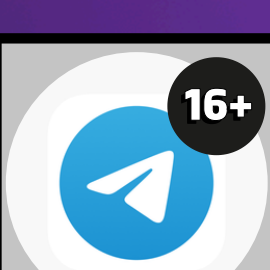
17+

**Tellonym** is an anonymous messaging app that allows people to post and answer questions and messages. Anonymous chat is never recommended for children or young people. The app has faced a backlash for the ease at which users can post inappropriate and potentially distressing content. It’s easy to come across adult themes including sex, drink, drugs and abusive comments if filters are not switched on.



13+

**Discord** is a voice and text app designed for gamers. It allows you to voice and text chat across different platforms. Most parents and carers do not check this app because it is associated with gaming. Some children are using Discord to share nude images for that reason. This is organised text and voice channels for chat. The space for each community on Discord is called a server. Servers are invite-only places where you can talk, collaborate, and share.



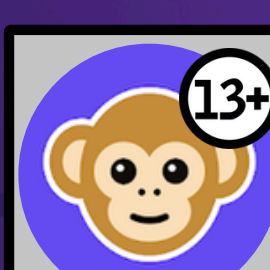
16+

**Telegram** is designed around secrecy and encryption, allowing users to send messages, photos, videos, and documents securely to contacts. All communications, including voice calls, are end-to-end encrypted. Children are now using Telegram to buy drugs like ketamine, receiving them directly at their front doors. This trend highlights serious concerns about underage access to illicit substances facilitated by such platforms.



13+

**Reddit** is a community-based forum, where people write posts covering many different topics, which others can then comment on. There is lots of content that would be fine for a child to read and look at, but there is also a large amount of explicit and questionable content too. More recently there have been reports of Reddit being linked to extremism and well as different forms of exploitation.



13+

**Monkey** lets users randomly video chat with complete strangers. When matched with a new person, you can add the stranger on Snapchat. “Fondly referred to as “the Omegle Alternative for TikTokers,” Monkey is the best place to talk to cool, young strangers and make new friends virtually” - (Taken from Monkey Web). Users can also chat in groups as well as DM (direct messaging). Talk to children and young people about the dangers of chatting to strangers online.



3+

**Plink** is an app for gamers. It is the first matchmaking platform made especially for gamers. Communicate, using free voice chat, find individuals to play with and check what games your other users are playing. This application was designed to ensure gamers could be matched with someone liked minded to be able to have fun and game with. However, the in-app features allows users to select the age of gamer they would like to play with, even down to location.



13+

**Wizz** is a social networking app that allows users to swipe and chat with real people online, similar to dating apps. This includes people near you & around the world. Users are grouped by age. However, adults have still been found amongst children’s profiles. ‘Friends’ can be selected based on their location, age, gender and interests. This platform encourages users to overshare their personal information to connect with new people and make new ‘friends’.



**ChatGPT** is an AI language model that engages in conversations and provides human-like text responses. While there is no specific age requirement to use it, parental guidance is recommended, especially for children accessing online platforms. ChatGPT can assist with answering questions, explaining concepts, and facilitating learning, but users should treat its responses with caution due to the potential for inaccuracies or incomplete information.



Take time to check it out for yourself. Always promote yourself as a source of support, and someone to talk to if a child or young person has any concerns.

Keep up to date by visiting [www.kidsonlineworld.com](http://www.kidsonlineworld.com)

