Safeguarding for Discord

What is it?

A **chat service** designed for creating communities.

Great for:

- **Creating servers**, both public and private, where people can meet, and chat via text, video, or voice.
- **Gamers can find each other**, coordinate play, and talk while playing.
- **Go Live** feature allows users to stream live gameplay to other users on a server.
- Users can **connect other social media accounts** to the app (including Steam, Twitch, Twitter, Spotify, and Xbox) to make it easier to track down people you know and become friends.
- **'Invite only'** to servers means that connections can only be made via a direct invite or through other friends.

Age restriction:

13 and over but no age verification.

Risks:

- It's **all user-generated** so there is inappropriate content, like swearing, graphic language and images.
- By default, users can **be directly messaged by anyone** already within a server.
- Discord has **"NSFW" channels** (not safe for work).
- Servers that require users to be 18 or older to join exist, but are **easy to access** straight through the 'verification' system.

How can you make it safer?

- The **Safe Direct Messaging** feature can automatically scan and delete direct messages containing explicit content.
- Server owners can **set their own rules** for what is or is not allowed (for example, swearing or hate speech) and block chat users who break the rules.
- Servers can be **moderated** by both users and bots.
- Discord has privacy and safety settings that allow users to control who has the ability to send them direct messages or add them as a friend. Users can also **block or mute other users**.
- You can **check what the topic is for a server** before giving consent to be added.

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