

## Online Safety Concern

We have been alerted by the CWAC Safeguarding Children Partnership to two social media sites of concern. These two sites, Omegle and Discord, have been accessed by primary-age children in Cheshire, some of whom have been traumatised through unintentionally viewing sexualised and abusive images of children and adults through these sites.

Neither of these sites is suitable for children, since both carry a 13+ age rating, but given the particular concern raised, please be especially vigilant regarding any use of them by your children.

Parental controls on your home internet service are a good place to start – but other measures will be required to prevent access on mobile phones used outside the home. Advice on such matters is available via these links:

- [Think U Know](#)
- [National Online Safety Website](#)



**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 +.