

# Online Safety News

## September 2024



### WhatsApp Chat Lock Feature

WhatsApp has an age rating of 13+ but is widely used by children under this age. With over 2.7 billion monthly users, WhatsApp is one of the most used messaging apps.

**Chat Lock** is a feature on WhatsApp that provides extra privacy for individual conversations by placing them in a separate, locked section. These chats appear under 'Locked Chats' on the app's Chats screen.

To enable this feature, users must set up either facial recognition or fingerprint authentication, which will then be required to access the locked chats.

For parents who share a phone with their child, Chat Lock can help keep personal messages secure.

However, if your child uses WhatsApp this is a feature to be aware of and be sure you know who they are communicating with online. Regular conversations about their time online and clear boundaries will help minimise the risk of negative or risky situations online.

### The best kid-safe search engines & browsers

Search engines like Google, YouTube, Bing, and Yahoo allow kids to find anything instantly, but they also expose them to inappropriate content. To help keep kids safe online, here are some great kid-friendly alternatives:

**Kiddle:** Powered by Google, Kiddle uses SafeSearch filters to block harmful content and displays kid-oriented results.

**KidzSearch:** A safe search engine with educational games and videos, using Google Safe Search and extra filtering.

**Kidoz:** Compliant with COPPA, Kidoz filters out inappropriate content and provides a secure browsing environment for kids.

**Safe Search Kids:** Powered by Google Custom Search, it adds extra filters and is commonly used in schools.

**Swiggle:** Another child-friendly search engine that uses Google SafeSearch for a secure browsing experience.

**Zoodles:** A browser with parental controls, allowing kids to access only pre-approved sites.

**YouTube Kids:** Designed for safer viewing, this app helps kids explore age-appropriate videos with parental guidance.

These tools can provide a safer online experience while supporting your child's learning and exploration.



## Have you heard of CapCut?

### What do you need to know?

- It's owned by the same owners as TikTok and is a video editing app.
- Age use rating of 13+ and those under the age of 18 must have consent from their parent/legal guardian.
- It is rated as 12+ on the App store. The App store have rated it as this because of Infrequent/Mild Mature/Suggestive Themes, Infrequent/Mild Sexual Content and Nudity.

### What does it do?

- CapCut is used as a video and image editing tool allowing users to edit their videos/images as well as add music, sound effects, text and stickers.

### What to watch out for:

- The templates are user generated, therefore they may not always be appropriate for your child to view, for example adult themes.
- CapCut includes access to a library of music that can be used within videos that may include explicit lyrics.
- CapCut does include in-app purchases/monthly subscriptions allowing users access to premium content.



## Podcasts for Kids



**Best overall** – You're Dead To Me: Free, Bbc.co.uk

**Best for answering big questions** – But Why: Free, Npr.org

**Best for celebrating extraordinary women** – Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls: Free, Rebelgirls.com

**Best mindfulness podcast** – Peace out: Free, Bedtime.fm

**Best music podcast** – Circle Round: Free, Npr.org

**Best storytelling podcast** – The Story Pirates Podcast: Free, Storypirates.com

**Best for aspiring scientists** – Brains On!: Free, Brainson.org

**Best for lively narration** – Stories Podcast: Free, Storiespodcast.com

**Best for making teeth-cleaning fun** – Chompers: Free, Gimletmedia.com Rated by The Independent