Protecting yourself on YouTube

YouTube is a video sharing platform where users can create, discover, watch, share and livestream videos. The main YouTube platform is available on Youtube.com, through the App Store and Google Play Store for users aged 13 and older. Children under the age of 13 can use YouTube Kids, which contains family friendly content.

Are there different versions of YouTube?

There are three different versions of YouTube users can avail of:

- **YouTube** – allows you to create your own channel and subscribe to the channels of other people or organisations. Users can also rate, comment on and share videos or add them to playlists. YouTube allows people to live stream and record content in real time however children under the age of 13 are not able to livestream without being accompanied by an adult
- **YouTube Kids** – this version of YouTube is aimed at children under the age of 13. It has family focused content and parental controls such as timers and search settings
- **YouTube Premium** – this is a paid monthly membership that gives users additional options for watching and listening to video and music. With this version advertising is removed and users can download content which can be viewed offline without an internet connection

Are there any safety concerns about YouTube?

- In the past there have been instances of adults watching videos of children playing games and leaving sexually suggestive comments on the videos. YouTube have since suspended comments on videos of minors however it is worth remembering that unless the video is made private, the video can be seen by anyone
- Aggressive and bullying comments are common under public videos. If you experience bullying or abuse on YouTube you can report it directly to YouTube (see below) or alternatively you can report it to Netsafe: netsafe.org.nz/reportanincident
- YouTube play short ad's during some videos, some of these ad's may not be age appropriate for children. Video's on YouTube Kids are intended to be family-friendly paid advertisements however parents should be cautious about letting children watch videos alone

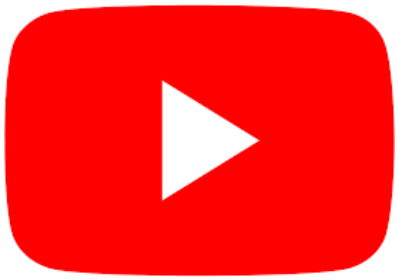
How do I keep my child safe on YouTube?

- **Make Videos Private:** There are three different privacy levels you can activate on your YouTube videos:
  - **Public** – this allows anyone to search and view the video you upload
  - **Private** – only approved followers can search and watch the video you upload
  - **Unlisted** – Your video can only be viewed by people who you send a link to the video to
  - To change a video's privacy setting, log into YouTube Studio> Videos> Hover over the video you'd like to update> Visibility> Choose Public, Private, or Unlisted> Save
- **Activate Restricted Mode:** this setting helps limit your children viewing potentially age-inappropriate and mature content. To turn this on, log into YouTube> Profile picture in the top right hand corner> Restricted Mode> Turn Restricted Mode "On" or "Off"
- **Family Link App:** YouTube is owned by Google, as a result parents can use Google's Family Link app to help you manage your child's device and accounts. Through this app parents can set screen time limits, review app permissions (such as their camera, location, contacts), block apps, block sites and filter content on YouTube

How do I report online abuse on YouTube?

- **Report an account:** If you want to report a channel on YouTube you can do this by signing into YouTube> Search the channel you wish to report> Click the About button at the top of the Channel's page> Click the Flag icon> Report user> Indicate the reason for reporting the Channel> Report> Continue
- **Report a video:** If you believe a video violates YouTube's guidelines you should report it. To do this, sign in to YouTube> Below the video click the three dots (More)> In the drop-down menu, choose Report> > Select the reason that best describes the violation in the the video> Submit
- **Report a comment:** If someone makes an inappropriate comment on a video you can report it by selecting the comment that you'd like to report> click the three dots (More)> Report spam or abuse> Select the reason for reporting the comment> Submit
- **Delete your account:** If you would like to delete your account, log into your YouTube account> Account link at the top of the page> Account section at the bottom of the page> Delete Account> State the reason you are closing your account> Enter your password> Delete My Account

I want some more information about how to stay safe on YouTube

If you want further information on YouTube or how to stay safe online, you can follow the below links:

- YouTube Community Guidelines: youtube.com/about/policies/#community-guidelines
- Te Tari Taiwhenua, Department of Internal Affairs - Factsheet on 'Helping children stay safe when using smart devices': dia.govt.nz/Censorship-Downloadable-Resources
- Netsafe have developed the Staying Safe Online Guide. This provides simple and practical tips on how to be safe on some of the most popular digital platforms: netsafe.org.nz/staying-safe-online