

ONLINE SAFETY



DISCORD ADVICE FOR PARENTS OF SECONDARY AGE PUPILS

What is it?

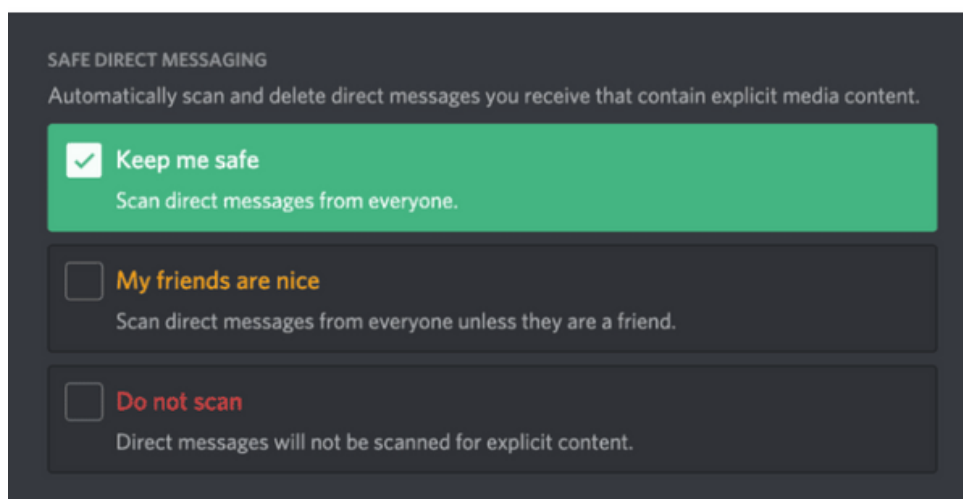
Discord is a platform for people with similar interests to share and communicate. It is very popular amongst gamers as a way to build a community outside of a game. The platform uses servers. These servers are set up to focus on different themes and people join them to talk about the particular theme.

Users can use a chat function to communicate with others, share images and links, and also join voice channels where users can hear ongoing conversations and join in.

The minimum age to access Discord is 13. Anyone who has registered as an under 18 is not able to access Age Restricted servers.

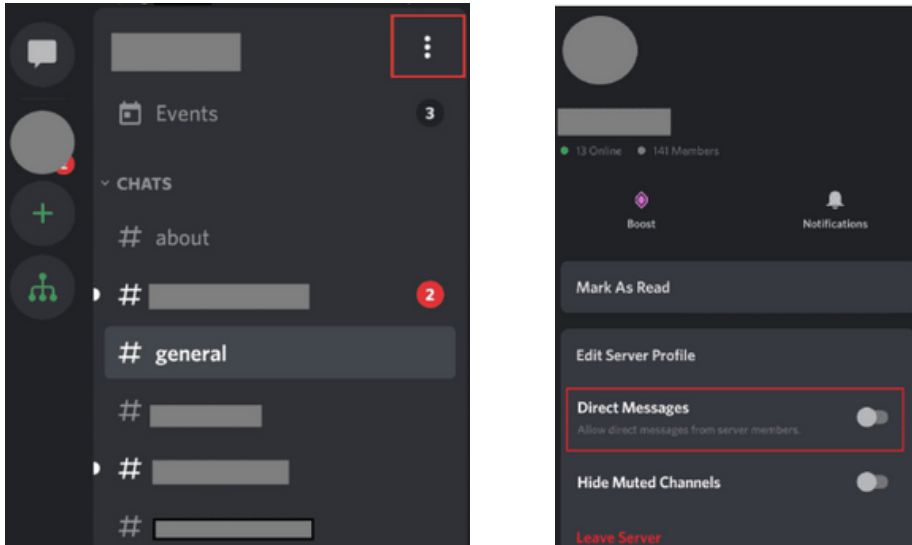
Filtering inappropriate content

Safe Direct Messaging offers a traffic-light coloured system and can be found in the Privacy and Safety menu. It gives you the options to scan messages for inappropriate content at different levels.

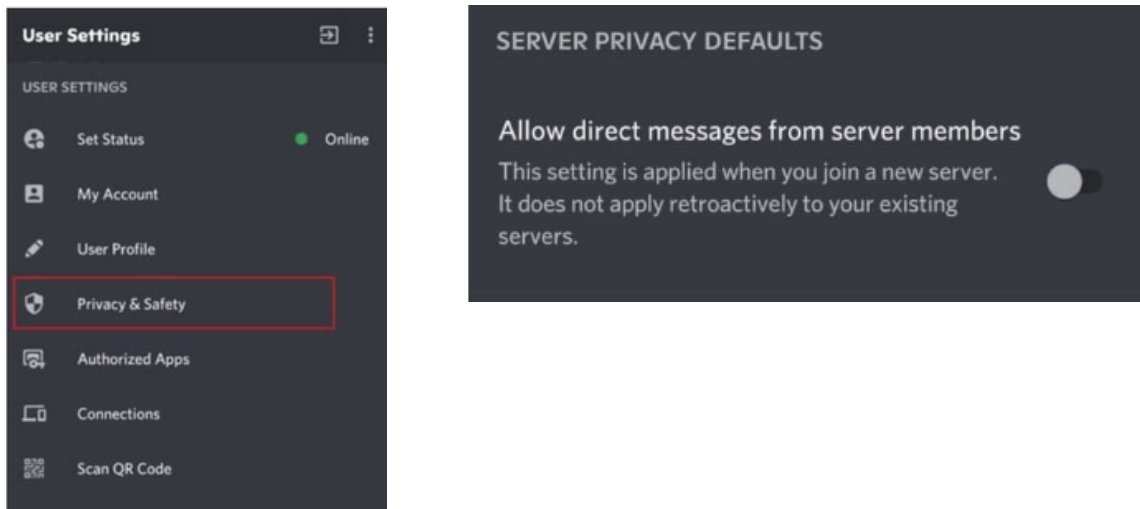


Blocking direct messages

You are able to block direct messages from chosen servers by clicking on the servers settings and deselecting 'Direct Messages'.

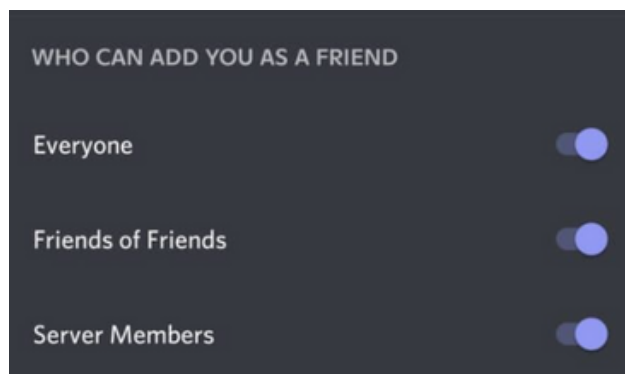


You can block Direct Messages across all servers in the account's Privacy and Safety menu.



Friend requests

You can also change who can send you friend requests in the Privacy and Safety menu.



Is it safe?

Discord can be a really positive tool for teenagers to communicate with others who have similar interests and to feel part of a community. Discord is not suitable for very young children. On Discord, there are channels that should only be viewed by users 18+ and contain adult content. Discord also allows live video and location tracking.

If your child uses Discord, it is important that you sit down with them and go through their profile to check:

- The age they have listed on their profile. Make sure this matches their current age.
- The levels of filtering they have on their Direct Messages.
- Who is allowed to Direct Message them.
- Which servers they access frequently.
- If they have allowed live video and location tracking.

A more detailed overview of parental controls can be found at <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/discord-app/> or through the QR code below



If you have any worries, concerns or questions regarding Discord or Online Safety, please email the school office with your enquiry on info@swanwicksportscollege.derbyshire.sch.uk and ask for it to be forwarded to Mrs Hardy, the Online Safety Lead.