




Skype is a free video chatting & communication platform owned by Microsoft and can be accessed through a Microsoft account

Skype can be used on desktop, laptops, tablets or smartphones for users to communicate via video, audio & text chat

Skype is one of the most popular in the world with approximately 300 million users per month

Skype has an age rating of 12+


## What are the risks to children & young people



Skype chat is not moderated, which means no one will be checking on who is talking to your child or what they are talking to them about



Skype can be used as a platform for grooming or it may be that inappropriate content may be shared including videos and pictures



There are often concerns that a Skype account may be 'hacked' and that people can listen in on conversations and access personal information




Although Skype is free to download, you do have to pay for phone calls. You can also gift Skype credit to other users

## How can we keep children & young people safe



There is an option to blur the background on a video call. You should also create a pseudonym for your display name (although you cannot change your Skype username) - These steps help prevent the sharing of personal information



There is an option to ignore or report inappropriate communication. Skype stores the Skype name of the person reported for abuse, but not the content of any message or contact made



Ensure that the account password is changed every month & consider adding your child to your own Microsoft Account through the 'Family Safety' settings



Check what bank cards (if any) you have saved to any existing Microsoft account and put necessary passwords on these cards, to prevent unwanted expenses

With any social media or communication platform, always consider...

Having a conversation with your child about only communicating with people they know and have met - explain the difference between a 'real' friend and an 'online' friend

Promoting yourself as someone your child can talk to if they receive negative communication or attention - assure them that it is never too late to come and talk to you