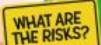
What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls. Its end=to-end encryption means messages can only be viewed by the sender and any recipients; not even WhatsApp can read them. Updates to its privacy policy in 2021 (involving sharing data with parent company Facebook) caused millions to leave the app, but the new policy was widely misinterpreted - it only related to WhatsApp's business features, not to personal messages.



...TYPING...

SCAMS

Fraudsters accasionally send WhatsApp messages pretending to offer prizes — encouraging the user to click on a link to win. Other common scams involve warning someone that their WhatsApp subscription has run out (aiming to dupe them into disclosing payment details) or impersonating a friend or relative and asking for money to be transferred to help with an emergency.

DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

disers can set WhatsApp messages to disappear in 24 hours, 7 days or 90 days by default. Photos and videos can also be instructed to disappear after the ecipient has viewed them. These files can't be saved or forwarded — so if your hild was sent an inappropriate message, it would be difficult to prove any wrongdoing. However, the receiver can take a screenshot and save that as widence.

ENABLING FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp has unfortunately been linked to accelerating the spread of dangerous rumours. In India in 2018, some outbreaks of mob vicience appear to have been sparked by false allegations being shared on the app. WhatsApp itself took steps to prevent its users circulating hazardous theories and speculation in the early weeks of the Could-19 pandemic.



POTENTIAL CYBERBULLYING

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

cognise which of their contacts also use to app. So if your child has ever given seir phone number to someone they don't now, that person could use it to contact em vio WhatsApp.

LOCATION SHARING



CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Even though someone would need a child's phone number to add them as a contact, it's also worth altering a young person's profile settings to restrict who can see their photo and status. The options are everyone, 'my contacts' and 'nobody' — choosing one of the latter two ensures that your child's profile is better protected.



EXPLAIN ABOUT BLOCKING



Young people shouldn't engage with any message that looks suspicious or too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they'll be given the option to report it as spam. If the sender claims to be a friend or relative, call that person on their usual number to verily it really is them, or if it's someone trying to trick your child.



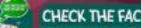
If your child is in a group chat that is making them feel uncomfortable, or has been added to a group that they don't want to be part of, they can use WhatsApp's group settings to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once; If they leave a second time, it is permanent.

THINK ABOUT LOCATION

If your child needs to use the five lecation' function to show you or one of their friends where they are, advise them to share their location only for as long as they need to. WhatsApp gives a range of five location options, and your child should manually stop sharing their position as soon as it is no longer needed.

DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES

If your child posts a message they want to delete, whatsApp allows the user seven minutes to crase a message. Top and hold on the message, choose deleter and then 'delete for everyone.' However, it's important to remember that recipients may have seen (and taken a screenshot of) a message before it was deleted.



Meet Our Expert

Parven Kour is a social media expert and digital media consulfant who is possionate about improving digital Hercey for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks; a web resource that helps pasents and children thrive in a digital works.













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