

# Gooseberry Parent Advice

## Discord What I should know...

## What is Discord?

Discord is a free, voice, video and text chat app for teens and adults ages 13 and up. It was created to bring people together through a love of gaming. Teens can access Discord via their PC, browser, or mobile phone. Once there, they can join a chat they've been invited to or they can create private servers and invite their friends to play and discuss games by voice, text or video. They can also message each other individually or in group chats with up to ten other friends.

### TOP TIP!

#### Be involved.

Sit with your child and be part of their gaming experience. It will give you a better understanding of how online gaming works.

## What do I need to know?

Discord is different from other social platforms like Twitter or Reddit, in that people come to Discord to build private, invite-only groups. All conversations are opt-in, so anyone not interested in chatting has a variety of tools at their disposal: You are able to:

- Direct message
- Choose who can add you as a friend
- Select which servers you want to partake in
- Decide whether or not to block another person
- Scan and delete direct messages with explicit content
- Choose who can join your server
- Add security and verification levels on your server.



## What to talk about with your child

- ★ Be part of what your son or daughter is playing, even if this means sitting and just listening
- ★ Talk about how easy it is to pretend to be someone different online.
- ★ Ask if your child is friends with people online and if so, who they are and how they know them
- ★ Block unwanted messages by: User Settings > Privacy & Safety – **Turn Off** 'Allow direct messages from server members'
- ★ In the same menu under 'Who can add you as a friend' **deselect** 'everyone' and 'server members.'
- ★ Encourage them always to ask permission before connecting with new people online and only to be friends with people they know and trust in real life.
- ★ Talk openly about their concerns and experiences.
- ★ Encourage your gamer to stay in groups and not to play on a server with a player that they do not know.
- ★ Reassure your child that everyone makes mistakes and although it may be difficult, you are there to help them and it is important to ask for help if they have made unsafe choices online.
- ★ Set up adequate parental controls on home networks and individual devices
- ★ There are filters such as NSFW (Not Safe for Work), which filter explicit material
- ★ Restrict use of connected devices to shared family areas of the home and keep an eye on what your child is doing online.