

# FOCUS ON...

# WHATSAPP



## WHAT IS WHATSAPP?

WhatsApp is a free messaging and calling app that allows users to send text messages, voice messages, make voice and video calls, and share media like photos, videos, and documents. WhatsApp is also known for its end-to-end encryption, which helps keep conversations private.

## DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

can create a false sense of security, leading to risky behaviours and potential harm.

- Screenshots & Forwarding**  
Even if messages disappear, anyone can screenshot, copy, or record them before they vanish.
- Encourages Risky Sharing**  
Users might feel safe sending sensitive content, assuming it will disappear, but others can still save or misuse it.
- Harder to Prove Harm**  
Cyberbullying, harassment, or inappropriate messages can disappear before they can be reported or used as evidence.
- Scams & Manipulation**  
Scammers and predators may use disappearing messages to cover their tracks and pressure victims into unsafe conversations.

Screen out spam and unknown contacts from calling you, so you can focus on conversations that really matter to you.

## KEEPING SAFE ON WHATSAPP

- Block & report suspicious contacts
- Privacy settings: Limit who can add them to groups.
- Teach Critical Thinking: Discuss fake news, scams, and the importance of not sharing personal details.

## CHATLOCK & PINLOCK

Chatlock hides chats in a Locked Chats folder. PinLock locks all of WhatsApp. Both need Face ID or a private code to open so are hidden from others.

If someone forces another to lock a chat, it could indicate control or manipulation.

## WHATSAPP CHANNELS

Anyone can create their own WhatsApp Channel to share content with large audiences, reaching beyond their phone book.

## GROUP PRIVACY SETTINGS

To prevent being added to groups, select "My Contacts Except...", choose all contacts (or exclude trusted ones), and ignore invite requests.

## GROUP CHATS

WhatsApp group chats are great for staying connected with family and friends; however, children may face cyberbullying, unfiltered content, and inappropriate discussions.

You can always seek further support and guidance from WhatsApp online.