



WEST
VANCOUVER
SCHOOLS



Parent's Guide to Discord

General Information

Discord is a communication platform that allows users to interact via text, voice and video. It was initially used by gamers but now has spread to many other groups.

13

Discord's own policy states that users must be 13 or older. For a person who is younger than 13 to create a Discord account, they have LIED about their age.

Unfortunately, students as young as 10 and 11 years have gotten caught up in cyber-bullying and inappropriate activities on Discord.

Public & Private Spaces

Discord has PUBLIC spaces (servers) that are available to all. Anything your child posts there can be seen by anyone. PRIVATE spaces are by invitation only.

Livestream

Users can stream live video of themselves on Discord, for others to watch. Whether they are on a PRIVATE or PUBLIC server, this could expose them to people they don't know. By watching other people's livestreams, they could be exposed to information that is inappropriate, violent or sexual in nature.

Did You Know?



In Canada, cyberbullying and child pornography can be criminal offenses. If your child participates in either of these, while using Discord (or other social media), you, as the parent, can be held liable for what they have done, and be prosecuted by law.

Discord at School

West Vancouver Schools DOES NOT allow students to access Discord while using school wifi.



If your child is under 13

- They SHOULD NOT be using Discord.
- As soon as they enter school grounds, their phone should be put away and not brought out again until they leave school grounds
- Consider holding off on getting them a phone as long as possible and if you do get them a phone, make sure you establish rules and guidelines over its use.

Did you know?

- DM refers to a private discussion with a certain person on Discord.
- GDM refers to a group messaging situation of up to 10 invited people. Be aware that because of the limit, users can end up feeling left out if they are outside of the 10.
- Through Discord, students can end up being exposed to inappropriate content, cyberbullying and unknown contacts.
- Gamers still make up the lions share of Discord participants. Online gaming is one of the main ways predators groom their victims.

If your child has Discord

- Make sure they are old enough to be on it - remember, at least 13!!
- Users are able to BLOCK and REPORT other users who are not following community guidelines. Make sure your child knows how to do this.
- Talk to them about their Discord use on a regular basis - find out what they're doing and who they are communicating with.
- Familiarize yourself with all of the safety settings and features then talk to your child about online safety and your family values and rules.
- Remember, YOU are the adult! If your child is not using Discord safely, you can shut off their data or wifi.