



WhatsApp

What are the risks for children?

Dangers of WhatsApp for children



Following on from yesterday's "Features of WhatsApp" message, we will now look at some of the dangers which this online media may pose to our young children. Having looked at how to block inappropriate content, we now move on to:

Cyber-bullying

WhatsApp groups can be controlled by an 'admin', who can change settings. This can include the name of the group and who is allowed to send messages.

The admin can also invite and remove people from the chat.

This could lead to children feeling left out or being deliberately excluded or removed from groups.

A few things could help:

- **controlling who can add them to groups**, as in the step above, to ensure that they are actual friends
- **reading NSPCC advice on cyberbullying** (www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/)
- **reading NSPCC general advice on bullying**, which explains what to do if the bullying is connected to school or an activity club. (www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/dealing-with-bullying/)