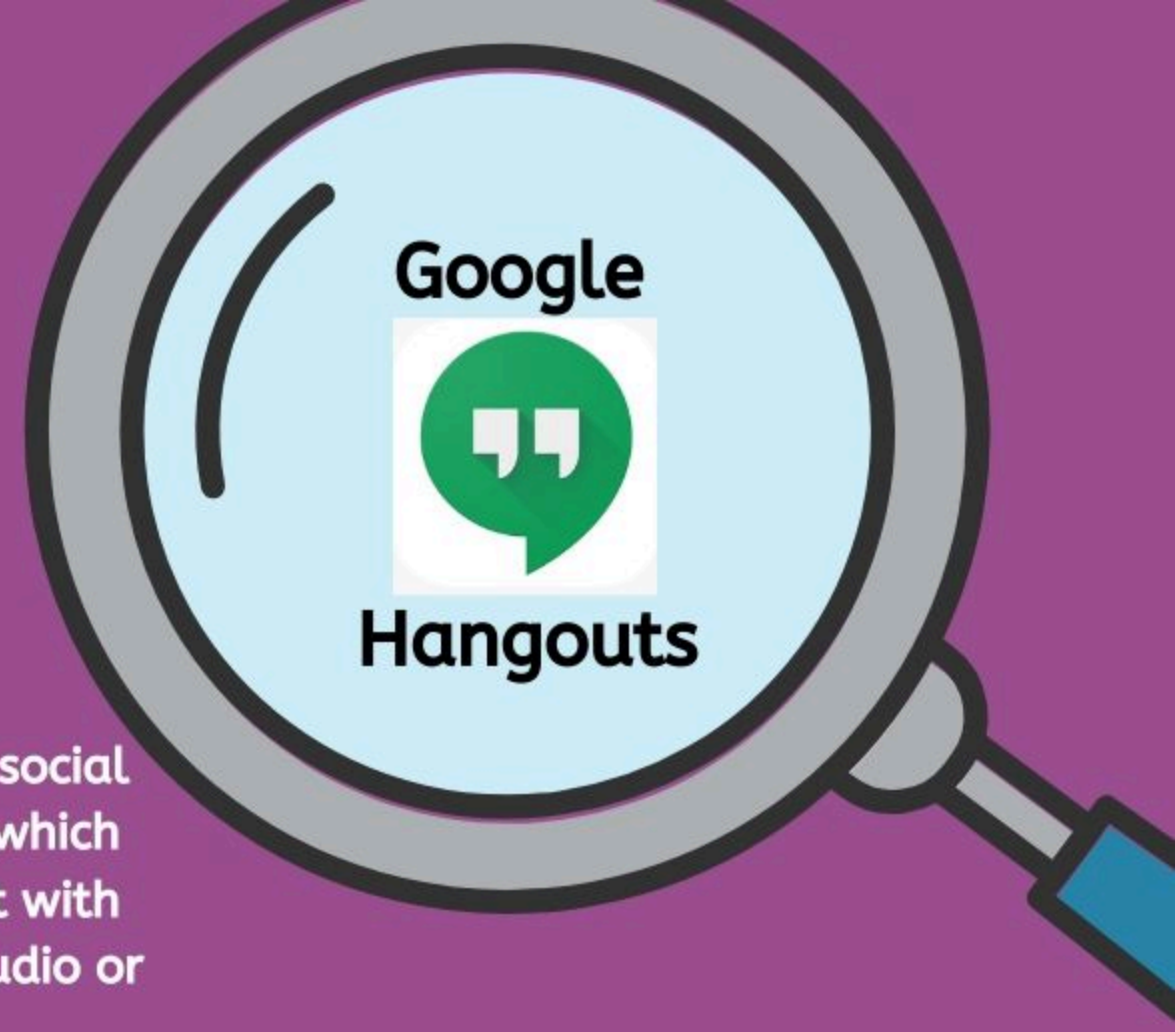


Focus on...



AGE 13+



Google Hangouts is a social networking platform which allows you to connect with contacts over video, audio or messaging



Calls to other users are free over wi-fi connection



You can set up a video group call with up to 10 people at any one time

Within 'Privacy Settings' users can select who can contact them and there are 3 options:



A mobile number is required to sign up via a phone and a google account is required to sign up via a computer



There is a risk that inappropriate contact might be made or inappropriate messages sent - if privacy settings are not set properly



- 1) Contact me directly
- 2) Can send me an invitation
- 3) Can't send me invitations



Advice for keeping children & young people safe



Ensure that 'Location sharing' is turned off by going into settings. Sharing location could place someone at risk of harm

Within the 'Privacy settings' on Google Hangouts we recommend you select so that an invitation has to be accepted (if you even allow this) for someone connect - it should not be set to 'Contact me directly'

At the top of the chat screen, there is an option to 'Block' or 'Report' anyone who sends inappropriate communication, videos or images

Be aware that there is an option to delete conversation threads - the good thing is that you cannot delete individual messages and you cannot delete messages from a group chat - only leave the group

Ensure that they understand the difference between 'Real' friends and 'Online' friends

Ensure that they do not share personal information - including background information when video calling someone or sharing an image

Even though there is greater accountability than some other platforms as a telephone number or google account is required in order to use Google Hangouts - there is still the risk that strangers may attempt to make contact

Remember - If a child is using Google Hangouts on an adults phone/ device - the settings may be different from their own account so check these before allowing them to use it



As with any 'app', communication platform or online game....

Take time to check it out for yourself and always promote yourself as a source of support and someone to talk to if your child has any concerns

