



# Digital Bulletin – Omegle

The content of our Digital Bulletins tends to look at themes, rather than specific apps or platforms. However, in this instance, the focus is on one particular app – Omegle. It is, of course important to remember that other apps can/will employ similar features and the same principles and concerns will apply.

## What is Omegle?

Omegle is an online platform that allows users to engage in anonymous chat conversations with strangers from around the world. It offers a unique experience where users can meet and interact with people they have never met before. The platform randomly pairs individuals for one-on-one text or video chats, with the option to skip to the next conversation at any time.

## Anonymity and lack of accountability

Omegle allows users to engage in anonymous conversations with strangers, meaning that users can chat without revealing their identities. While anonymity might seem appealing, it also creates an environment where people can hide their true intentions. It is important to remember that not everyone you encounter on Omegle has good intentions. Protect your personal safety by being cautious and not sharing any personal information. Due to the lack of content moderation on Omegle, there is a risk of encountering explicit or inappropriate content. Users have reported instances of encountering adult content, offensive language, or graphic imagery during their conversations. Exposure to such content can be distressing and potentially harmful. It is crucial to exit any conversation immediately if it becomes uncomfortable, offensive, or inappropriate.

## Cyberbullying/Harassment

The anonymous nature of Omegle can create an environment where cyberbullying and harassment thrive. Some users may engage in offensive or hurtful behaviour, targeting others for their own amusement. If you experience any form of bullying, harassment, or abusive behaviour on Omegle, it is important to disengage from the conversation, block the user, and report the incident to the appropriate authorities. Protecting your privacy online is essential when using platforms like Omegle. Avoid sharing personal information such as your full name, address, phone number, school details, or social media profiles. Sharing such information can put your privacy and safety at risk, potentially leading to identity theft, stalking, or other harmful situations.

## Advice

Parents and guardians play a vital role in ensuring online safety. It is important to have open and honest conversations with your children about their online activities, including the potential risks associated with platforms like Omegle. By maintaining a dialogue and providing guidance, parents and guardians can help their children make informed decisions and navigate the digital world safely.

To ensure your online safety when using platforms like Omegle, we recommend the following precautions:

- Refrain from using Omegle or similar anonymous chat platforms.
- If you choose to use Omegle, exercise extreme caution and have parental guidance.
- Be aware of the potential risks and consequences associated with anonymous online interactions.
- Exit any conversation that makes you uncomfortable, and report any instances of bullying, harassment, or inappropriate content.
- Avoid sharing personal information that could compromise your privacy and safety.
- Educate yourself about responsible internet use, including the importance of digital citizenship and respectful online behaviour.

If there are any topics that you would like more information about, or if you have any concerns regarding online safety, please feel free to contact me.