

WhatsApp Update June 2023

A new feature on WhatsApp will soon allow users to be able to lock and hide conversations. Chat Lock will remove a chat thread from the app's regular onscreen inbox and place it into a new folder that can only be opened by a password or biometric, such as facial recognition or a fingerprint. Essentially messages will be hidden in a password protected folder and notifications won't show the sender or message content.

Meta who own WhatsApp are calling it "one more layer of security", that Chat Lock will protect "your most intimate conversations" and hide notifications from them.

The new feature is naturally a worry especially when it comes to safeguarding children and young people online as this now means children and young people can hide messages, photos and videos from parents, carers, professionals and their friends.

How can we support children and young people using WhatsApp

- the behaviour on it such as bullying
- people struggling around healthy relationships, especially peer pressure.
- the poster
- Be proactive as much as you can and capture the voice of the child

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