

1. Introduction

Welcome to HangoutHub.," "we," "us," or "our"). We are committed to protecting your privacy and ensuring a safe experience for all users. This Privacy Policy outlines the types of data we collect, how we use and safeguard it, and your rights regarding your information. By using our platform, you consent to the practices described in this policy.

This Privacy Policy complies with UK data protection laws, including the **UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)** and the **Data Protection Act 2018**. If you are a resident of the United Kingdom, you are entitled to specific rights regarding your personal data under these laws.

2. Information We Collect

We collect various types of data to improve our platform's functionality, security, and user experience. The types of information we collect include:

- **Personal Information:** When users register, we may collect their name, email address, date of birth, username, and profile information.
- Parental Consent Data: If a user is under the age of [insert age], we require
 parental or guardian consent, including the collection of parental contact
 details.
- **Device and Usage Data:** This includes IP addresses, browser type, device information, location data (if permitted), cookies, and log data to analyze platform performance and enhance security.
- **User-Generated Content:** Posts, messages, images, videos, and other interactions made on the platform may be collected and monitored to ensure compliance with our community guidelines.
- **Behavioral Data:** We track user activities, including interactions with other users, time spent on the platform, and feature usage, to enhance user experience and improve safety measures.

3. How We Use Your Information

We process collected data for the following purposes:

- **Service Provision:** To create and manage user accounts, provide customer support, and facilitate social interactions.
- **Safety and Compliance:** To detect, investigate, and prevent fraud, abuse, or any violation of our community guidelines and legal obligations.
- **Personalization:** To tailor content, recommendations, and notifications based on user preferences and behavior.
- **Communication:** To send important updates, security alerts, and relevant information about new features or policy changes.
- Research and Analytics: To analyze user engagement, identify trends, and enhance our services.
- **Legal Compliance:** To comply with applicable UK laws, respond to legal requests, and protect the rights and safety of users and HangoutHub.

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4. Sharing and Disclosure of Information

We do not sell or rent personal data. However, we may share information under the following circumstances:

- With Service Providers: We work with trusted third-party partners who help
 us operate and improve our platform, such as hosting services, analytics
 providers, and security firms. These parties are bound by strict confidentiality
 agreements.
- For Safety and Legal Reasons: We may disclose user data to UK law enforcement, government authorities, or legal representatives if required to comply with legal obligations, enforce our terms, prevent fraud, or protect the safety of our users.
- With Parental Guardians: For underage users, we may share necessary account activity details with verified parents or legal guardians.
- With Consent: In cases where users voluntarily participate in surveys, promotions, or partnerships, we may share limited data with relevant parties based on user consent.

5. Data Security

We implement advanced security measures to protect user data, including:

- **Encryption:** All sensitive data is encrypted both in transit and at rest.
- Access Control: Only authorized personnel have access to user data, and they are required to follow strict confidentiality policies.
- **Monitoring:** We continuously monitor for security threats, unauthorized access, and potential data breaches.
- **User Responsibility:** Users are responsible for safeguarding their login credentials and reporting any suspicious activities to us immediately.
- We may collect and temporarily store a copy of an individual's identification document for the sole purpose of completing necessary verification and security checks. This is done to prevent misuse of our services, including malpractice or use of the app by anyone above the recommended age limit.
- We will retain this identification data only for as long as is necessary to complete the verification process and fulfil our legitimate interest in protecting the integrity and safety of our platform. Once the required checks are complete, the identification data will be securely deleted in accordance with our data retention and deletion policy.
- We process this data under the lawful basis of legitimate interests (Article 6(1)(f) UK GDPR) and, where applicable, in compliance with relevant ageverification and safeguarding regulations.

Despite these efforts, no platform can guarantee absolute security. Users acknowledge that they use the platform at their own risk.

6. Children's Privacy and Parental Controls

HangoutHub is designed for minors, and we take extra precautions to ensure their safety:

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- Parental Consent: Users under [age] must have verified parental or guardian consent before creating an account, in accordance with the UK's Children's Code (Age-Appropriate Design Code).
- Restricted Data Collection: We limit the collection of personal information from minors to essential details required for service provision.
- **Parental Monitoring:** Parents can request access to their child's account activity and set restrictions on features and interactions.
- **Safety Monitoring:** We employ automated systems and human moderation to detect and prevent inappropriate content, bullying, and harmful interactions.

7. User Rights and Choices Under UK Law

Users in the UK have the following rights under the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018:

- Access & Correction: Users can review and update their personal information through their account settings.
- **Data Deletion:** Users can request the deletion of their account and associated data by contacting us.
- **Opt-Out:** Users can opt out of marketing communications and adjust notification preferences.
- Parental Controls: Parents can request changes or deletions of their child's data under applicable UK privacy laws.
- **Right to Restrict Processing:** Users can request restrictions on how their data is used in certain circumstances.
- **Right to Data Portability:** Users can request a copy of their personal data in a structured, commonly used format.

8. Limitation of Liability

HangoutHub provides a platform for social interactions but is not liable for:

- Any disputes, conflicts, or harm resulting from user interactions on the platform.
- Emotional distress, cyberbullying, or any psychological harm caused by thirdparty users.
- Unauthorized access, hacking, or data breaches beyond our reasonable
- External links or third-party websites accessed through HangoutHub.

Users acknowledge that they engage with the platform at their own risk and should exercise caution when interacting with others. Parents are advised to monitor their child's online activity.

9. Changes to This Privacy Policy

We may update this policy periodically to reflect changes in UK regulations or our services. Users will be notified of significant updates via email or platform notifications. Continued use of HangoutHub after updates constitutes acceptance of the revised policy.

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10. Contact Information

For any questions or concerns regarding this Privacy Policy, please contact us at:

Email: info@hangouthub.co.uk

Address: 7 Pointers close, London, E14 3AP. UK Data Protection Officer: Mr. Ansel D Souza

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