



Online Safety

Let's talk

It's really important to regularly chat to your child about their online lives but it can sometimes be difficult to start these conversations. We thought these resources may help you to start these conversations:

- <https://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Let's-talk-about-life-online.pdf>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

Parental Controls

Mobiles

Have you set up appropriate parental controls on your child's phone? Controls can easily be set up and allow you to do the following (and more!):

iPhone

Set Content & Privacy controls	Prevent iTunes purchases
Restrict the use of built-in apps or features	Prevent explicit content and content ratings
Prevent web content	Restrict Game Center
Restrict Siri web search	Prevent App Store purchases

How do I do this?

To change the above settings on your child's device, go into 'Settings' on their phone and select the features you wish to change. You will need to set up a screen time passcode for some of the features.

Learn more: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT201304>

Android phone

On Android devices, you will need a Google Account and you will set up Parental controls within the Play store. You will need to go to 'Settings' and 'Parental controls.'

Restrict content downloaded/purchased from Google Play	Manage purchases
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What about Family Link?

You could set up Family Link (more information available here: <https://families.google.com/familylink/> to offer more control:

Manage screen time	See where they are
View their activity	Manage their apps

Learn more:

<https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738?hl=en-GB>

Roblox

What is Roblox?

You can either use Roblox to create games or play games that other users have created. Roblox has a PEGI rating of 7+ BUT as a lot of the content is user generated, which PEGI does not rate, these games may not be suitable for your child to view/play.

What should I be aware of?

Chat Facility – Players can chat to each other on Roblox. You can add parental controls to turn this feature off completely or add restrictions.

Virtual Currency – Players can buy Robux (their virtual currency) to buy in-game upgrades or accessories. If you do not want your child to purchase them, then ensure your card details are not saved.

What should I do?

- Play the game with your child.
- Explore the parental controls within Roblox and set appropriately for your child (for example restrict access to age-appropriate games).
- Show your child how to use the Report Abuse system within Roblox to report inappropriate content and how to block other users.

Further information:

<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>
<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/roblox-parents%E2%80%99-guide-%E2%80%93-what-it-and-it-safe-your-child>

SEND Online Safety Hub

Net Aware have worked with Ambitious about Autism to create a hub featuring online safety tips, advice and activities for parents/carers of children with SEND.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/send-online-safety-hub/>

WhatsApp: View once

WhatsApp have introduced a new view once feature when sending photos and videos. This means that once the photo/video has been viewed, the recipient can't see it again and they won't have the ability to forward or save it.

You need to be aware that if your child is using WhatsApp, that they understand that even if they use this feature, the recipient could still take a screenshot or screen recording of the photo/video before it disappears without you knowing. They could then share this with other people.

More information available here: <https://faq.whatsapp.com/general/chats/about-view-once/>

Discord

What is Discord?

Discord is a social networking app that is used by gamers to **chat to each other**. There can be in app purchases through Discord's premium subscription service. The minimum age to access Discord is 13.

How does it work?

Discord is made up of 'servers', which are spaces for groups of friends to chat, upload files and share images etc. Anybody can set up a server and they can either be public or private. Users can video call and send direct messages to other individuals or to groups of up to 9 people. By default, all direct messages are scanned and explicit content is blocked.

How can I make it safer?

Discord have created this article, which outlines four steps to creating a safer account. Including how to block users. <https://discord.com/safety/360043857751-Four-steps-to-a-super-safe-account>

How is it linked to other games?

Children who play online games such as Fortnite may use Discord to chat about the game (rather than the game's own chat facility).

What do I need to be aware of?

We always encourage you to chat to your child to see why they use different apps/websites and ensure that they know how to block users and what to do if they see any inappropriate content. It's important to be aware that Discord does include video/voice calling which cannot be filtered.

Discord is used by an array of users and therefore adult content can be found on Discord as well as inappropriate language. Discord have produced this article which answers common questions: <https://discord.com/safety/360044149591-Answering-parents'-and-educators'-top-questions>

Is the game your child playing age appropriate?

Check the PEGI rating, it will either be rated 3, 7, 12, 16 or 18. As an example, if it is rated 18, then the game should not be played by anybody under the age of 18.

<https://www.askaboutgames.com/pegi-rating/>

Does your child know how to block and report other users?

Most games include the option to block or report other users that are upsetting you or behaving inappropriately. Talk to your child about these reporting tools for every game that they play.

Does the game include chat?

There are many games played online which include the option to chat (either by typing or talking through headsets). This article includes more information including 4 tips to help you to support your child to stay safe when chatting:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming/> If you are concerned about who your child is chatting to online then this article provides further information about online grooming: <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/online-grooming/>

In game/app purchases

Make sure you have appropriate parental controls set up and that your credit/debit card details are not stored to prevent receiving an unexpected bill! Ensure your child understands that they must seek your permission before purchasing anything.

Is your child being bullied?

It's important to have regular chats with your child about what they do and see online. If you think your child is being bullied online or they tell you they are then this article will provide you with further advice on what you can do to help: <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/types-bullying/bullyingcyberbullying/>

Finally, if your child is playing online then don't forget to set up the appropriate parental controls to provide a further layer of protection.

What age can my child start social networking?

All social networks have age restrictions, it's important to review these to check what your child is using is appropriate for them. Internet Matters provide further guidance here as well as listing the minimum age for many of the platforms we see being used: <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/what-age-can-my-child-startsocial-networking/>

Useful sites

- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) provide tips, advice, guides and other resources to help.
- National Crime Agency/CEOP [Thinkuknow](#) provides support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- National Online Safety | [Keeping Children Safe Online in Education](#) has lots of free parent/carers guides on a variety of topics.