



New Technology

With Christmas nearly here and with some children receiving new technology or related games, here is a quick reminder of the importance of setting up appropriate parental controls.

Games/Consoles

- Check age ratings: look at the PEGI rating of any new games.
- Remember, PEGI rates the gameplay so whilst it is important to review age ratings, you must also check to see if it has any communication elements.
- If a game does allow your child to communicate with others, then adjust or disable the settings as appropriate to your child.
- On the device itself, set up applicable controls such as restricting spending limits and managing who they can communicate with. Follow the links below to find out how to set up Parental Controls for some devices here:



Xbox: <https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/family-hub>

PS5: <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/ps5-parental-controls-spending-limits/>

Nintendo Switch: <https://www.nintendo.co.uk/Hardware/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls-1183145.html>

Tablets/Smart phones

Set up parental controls on the device to prevent purchases, restrict content viewed and adjust privacy settings. Furthermore, remember to check any apps your child requests to check that they are suitable for their age. Follow the links below to find out more:

iPhones/iPad: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/105121>

Android Device: <https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738>

Why is it important?

Parental controls are important to help provide a safer experience for your child by reducing/preventing access to inappropriate content, cyberbullying, communication with strangers and restricting purchases.

Roblox

You may have seen the recent investigation about Roblox by Hindenburg, which highlights very worrying concerns about the content that can be seen on Roblox, even when users have listed their age as under 13. You can read the full report here: <https://hindenburgresearch.com/roblox/>

What is Roblox? Roblox is a platform consisting of a collection of games. Players can either create games or play games that other users have created. It is free to download (however subscription options and in game/app purchases are available) and can be played across numerous devices. A lot of the content is user generated, which may mean not all games will be suitable for your child to view/play. If your child is playing Roblox, it is important to monitor what your child is accessing and set up appropriate parental controls.

If you need any further advice or support with online safety, please come and talk to us in school.

Mrs Mainwaring



Tips to help you talk about cyberbullying

Internet Matters have collated their tips to help you talk about cyberbullying with your child based on different age categories. The information is divided into four sections:

1. Before you start the conversation
2. Things to talk to them about such as how to deal with cyberbullying
3. What to do next
4. Where to get further help

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issue/s/cyberbullying/cyberbullying-conversation-starter-guide>

The 'Add Everyone' Explicit WhatsApp Group

The INEQE Safeguarding group have issued an alert regarding a WhatsApp group known as 'Add Everyone.' Find out more here:

<https://ineqe.com/2024/10/31/safeguarding-alert-add-everyone-whatsapp-group/>