

Online Safety Newsletter

December 2022

Parental

With Christmas nearly here presents including related games being received, we'd provide you with how to set up parental controls.

Games/consoles

First, check the PEGI games to ensure that enough to be playing age classifications for **the age suitability of a game, not the level of difficulty**. It is important to note that PEGI do not take into consideration the chat facilities within games. If a game does allow your child to communicate with others then you can adjust the settings so they are appropriate to your child - or disable it completely.

Secondly, for any consoles (new and old), it is important to set up appropriate controls such as restricting spending limits and again managing who they can communicate with. Follow the links below to find out how to set up Parental Controls for each device:

Xbox:
<https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/community/for-everyone/responsible-gaming>

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

As well as setting up parental controls on the device itself, remember to check any apps your child would like on their device. Is it suitable for their age? Review all settings and privacy options for each app. For the devices themselves use the available settings to prevent purchases, restrict content viewed and adjust privacy settings. Follow the links below to find out more:

iPhones/iPads: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT201304>

Google Play: <https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738>



controls

here and perhaps with new technology or received, we thought a little reminder of appropriate parental

rating of any new your child is old them. PEGI provides games and **considers**



Be kind online



We do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 1.12.22.

It can be very easy online for children to behave in a way that they wouldn't if they were face to face with each other. Talk to your child about how they are speaking to others online and encourage them to talk to people online with respect and kindness, like they would if they were face-to-face.

Dr Linda Papadopoulos (Internet Matters Ambassador) provides tips on how you can help your child to be kind online in this

YouTube video such as teaching them how to be inclusive and think about how they would like to be treated online themselves:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1BqKi3J7g6Q&t=9s>

Ensure that your child understands that if they receive unkind messages (or see something that worries them) then they should not reply or engage in conversation with them, but that they should tell a trusted adult. You can use the tools within an app to report any offensive or hurtful content as well as block people so they cannot contact you again in the future.

Unicef have a comprehensive area on their website, which talks about what Cyberbullying is and how to stop it:

<https://www.unicef.org/end-violence/how-to-stop-cyberbullying>

Childline also have a lot of information about Cyberbullying, including advice to those that might be bullying:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/types-bullying/bullying-cyberbullying/>



How can the law help me?

Whilst we wait for the Online Safety Bill to be improved, there are certain laws that protect us online. For example, in the UK we have the Obscene Publications Act 1959 that states it is an offence to send a communication that conveys an indecent or grossly offensive message or a threat. We also have the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, which covers threatening behaviour or harassment online.



Report Harmful Content have curated a list of laws that are relevant to online behaviour here:

<https://reportharmfulcontent.com/when-should-you-go-to-the-police/>

passed, which will hopefully already be established to help with the Malicious Communications

Screen time advice

We're often asked how long children should spend on their devices each day. Childnet have created a blog discussing why it is difficult to specify a limit and what you should consider. You can read it here:

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/screen-time-guidance-for-parents-and-carers/>