Online Safety Newsletter

Dec 2024

Keeping your child safe when using technology

Setting parental controls:

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 purchase. You can also plan what time of day your child can go online and how long for and manage the content different family members can see.

Setting up parental controls on:

Home Broadband and WiFi

Home internet providers can offer parental controls for your family. You can:

- Use a filter from your internet provider to control the content that you and your family see. Some providers allow different settings for each user
- Set up any device connected to your home broadband. How you do this depends on your provider and you'll need to access your home router. You can ask your internet provider for help setting this up.

Apps and Online Services

Many social media, apps and online services such as film and TV streaming services have features such as:

- Content filters
- Chat filters
- Privacy settings
- In-app purchase settings

You can find out about these features by looking in the settings on each app, or take a look at their website for more information. They might be called settings, family features, privacy or security.

Facebook has a parent's portal which helps explain the features available.

For **Netflix**, you need to visit the website to set up parental controls – we suggest you do this as soon as you create an account.

Microsoft Family Safety – by creating a family group you can manage many settings, such as setting screen time limits, blocking inappropriate content, receive activity reports, set app and game limits and more. To learn more about Microsoft Family Safety see the Microsoft page and Xbox Family Settings.

Games consoles

Most games consoles have internet access, which means your child can go online and chat with other players or make in-game purchases. On many consoles there are parental controls which allow you to manage which features are available to your child. On some devices you can:

- turn off chat functions to stop your child from talking to people they don't know
- restrict games based on age
- turn off in-game purchases, or set a limit.
- Check the website for the console your child has for a parent's section and details of features. Some games also allow you to change settings for that individual game.

PlayStation Family Management

On PlayStation consoles you can set up a Family Manager account which allows you to manage different accounts for different children/users. Within this you can manage a range of features, such as restricting communication with other players, restricting content, setting play time controls and set spending limits. See all the features available for PS4 and for PS5.

Mobiles, tablets and computers

All mobiles, tablets and computers have parental control settings, which can differ between devices, these include:

- allowing or disallowing in-game or in-app purchases
- settings such as location settings and what information your child is sharing
- wellbeing settings to help with limiting screen time.

You can get more advice about setting up controls on different devices from your mobile provider and the UK Safer Internet Centre.

On Apple devices such as iPhone, iPad, Apple Watch, Apple TV etc. there are features available for parents all tied into an account. You can set content and privacy restrictions, prevent purchases, allow or disallow apps and more. See what parental controls are available on Apple iOS devices.

Staying Safe Online with Google Families

Google have a one stop resource to help you and your family stay safe online. It includes how to set up parental controls and important steps on how to keep your children safe online. You can find out more here:

Https://families.google/

You can get further advice if you're stuck, not sure what to do, or if you're worried about your child, by contacting NSPCC trained helpline counsellors on 0808 800 5000.