

February 2023

Broadband Setup

Have you set up appropriate settings on your broadband/Wi-Fi? Most broadband providers include parental controls for free as part of their broadband package, which means that any device that connects to your Wi-Fi will be protected by any controls you set up. Find out how to set yours up here:

Sky:

<https://www.sky.com/help/articles/sky-broadband-buddy-start>

BT:

<https://www.bt.com/help/security/how-to-keep-your-family-safe-online-with-bt-parental-controls-an>

Talk Talk:

<https://community.talktalk.co.uk/t5/Keeeping-your-Family-Safe/bd-p/kfshub>

Virgin:

<https://www.virginmedia.com/broadband/parental-control>

Remember, children may have devices that use mobile data, so they won't always be connected to your wifi.

Ensure you set up parental controls on these devices too. Further information: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parental-controls-offered-by-your-home-internet-provider>

Test Your Internet Filter

SWGfL have created a tool to test your filtering to give you an indication that your broadband is blocking certain categories. Access it here: <http://testfiltering.com/>

Online Safety Newsletter



Minecraft

Check the age ratings: Minecraft is rated by PEGI as 7+ or 12+ depending on which game version you are playing. The App store rate it as 9+ and the Google Play store rate it as 10+.



It is important to remember that when rating games, PEGI do not take into consideration the communication features of a game. Minecraft does include a chat facility, which adds further risks of seeing inappropriate language/content. This can be switched off.

Which mode? You can choose between Creative or Survival mode - creative mode removes the survival elements of the game (no mobs appearing at night) so may be a more appropriate mode for your child to play.

What else do I need to be aware of?

Multiplayer – children can interact with others (including strangers), you can switch this option off within settings or choose to play offline.

Block and report players – if your child is playing with others, make sure they know how to block and report players within the game.

Additional purchases – be aware of in app purchases and the purchase of additional items (skin packs) to support (although not needed) game play.

In addition, protect your child's privacy by using a nickname (don't include their age/birth year) rather than their real name for their profile and chat to your child to make sure that when playing online they know not to share personal information. We have talked lots about this in our online safety lessons!

Also, make sure your child knows they can talk to you or a trusted adult if anybody or anything is making them feel uncomfortable or upset.

For more information: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/is-minecraft-safe-for-children/>

Interesting Articles

TikTok Refresher

TikTok users are permitted to be 13 years old, or older and is ever increasing in popularity. ParentZone have more information here: <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok>

YouTube

The NSPCC have produced this article discussing the risks associated with using YouTube and the safety settings and features that are available depending on how old your child is and what they do on YouTube. Don't forget there is YouTube Kids!

You can access the article here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/how-to-keep-your-child-safe-on-youtube/>

Games Consoles

Check the PEGI rating of any new games to ensure that your child is old enough to be playing them. PEGI provides age classifications for games and considers 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 - or disable it completely. We talk about PEGI ratings at school and encourage children to look at these. We tell them they are there for safety – not to be mean!

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:

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

PlayStation 5 (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>

Key Messages:



ZIP IT

Keep your personal stuff private and think about what you say and do online.



BLOCK IT

Block people who send nasty messages and don't open unknown links and attachments.



FLAG IT

Flag up with someone you trust if anything upsets you or if someone asks to meet you offline.

Zip it, Block it, Flag it is our Online Safety message that we share with children alongside SMART rules for being safe online. Please take the time to look at these key messages and go over these with your children at home.

S SAFE Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information – such as your full name, email address, phone number, home address, photos or school name – to people you are chatting with online.

M MEETING Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' or carers' permission and even then only when they can be present.

A ACCEPTING Accepting emails, IM messages, or opening files, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems – they may contain viruses or nasty messages!

R RELIABLE Information you find on the internet may not be true, or someone online may be lying about who they are.

T TELL Tell your parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online. You can report online abuse to the police at www.thinkuknow.co.uk