



Schools Safer App

We are delighted to invite you to download the Safer Schools App.

How will the Safer Schools NI App help you?

Provides you with easy-to-follow steps on how to make your home and devices safer.

Keeps you up to date with the current online trends, threats, and risks to your child.

Delivers the information you need to know on social media and gaming platforms, helping you understand the latest buzzwords and how to set privacy and parental settings on platforms like Among Us, Minecraft and TikTok.

Further information on this can be found on the website.



Deciding what's appropriate for your child to see online!

The online world gives us access to a huge amount of information and services, but the scale of information available also means that there is content that is inappropriate for children.

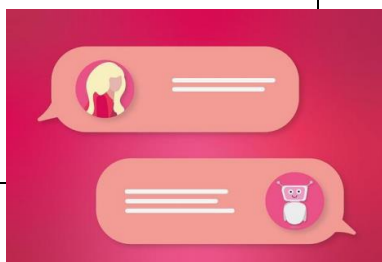
What are parental controls?

Parental controls allow you to block and filter upsetting or inappropriate content. They work across your WiFi, phone network, individual apps and devices.

Parental controls can help you to:

- plan what time of day your child can go online and how long for
- create content filters to block apps that may have inappropriate content
- manage the content different family members can see.
- Talking to your child. Explain why you are setting parental controls; to keep them safe. But also let them know that they can talk to you to discuss why certain settings are in place.
- Set good, strong passwords where you are able. On some parental controls you can set a password which prevents settings and features from being changed.
- Age is a significant factor; as children get older, restrictions and controls you use will change, but only at a pace that is appropriate for your child.

What is Artificial Intelligence?



AI is when a computer/machine can learn and perform tasks like a human. Its popularity continues to grow and can be a useful tool.

Risks and concerns

- Misinformation – ensure your child understands that AI can sometimes provide incorrect or misleading information.
- Privacy issues – read any privacy policies before using.
- Chat apps - a simple search of “AI Chat” within the App store highlights the number of apps already available that are not suitable for children as many are rated as 17+.
- Image manipulation – there are AI tools that can be used to digitally remove clothes from photos, which clearly raises serious safeguarding and privacy concerns.

Focus on - Roblox!

Roblox: Grow a Garden Roblox is a platform consisting of a collection of games. Grow a Garden is one of the latest games available on Roblox and is extremely popular. The game is labelled as 'minimal' for content maturity, which Roblox define as "may contain occasional mild violence, light unrealistic blood, and/or occasional mild fear." Roblox believe that the game play is suitable for everyone.



However, as the game is on Roblox, it is important to be aware of the following:

- Chat – strangers can interact with your child.
- In-game purchases – this game does include in-game purchases.
- Screenshot – set limits for how long your child is playing.

A lot of the content on Roblox 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, ensure they know how to use any reporting tools and set up appropriate parental controls.

Further Information:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/robloxupdatesparentalcontrolsandintroducesnewsafetyfeaturesforunder13s/?gad>

Online Grooming

Grooming online Grooming is when somebody seeks to build a relationship with a child to exploit them or cause harm. It is important that we teach our children how to recognise red flags. Childline have lots of useful information on their website, including where to get further support from:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/infoadvice/bullying-abuse-safety/onlinemobile-safety/online-grooming/>

How can I protect my child?

To help keep your child safe online, it is important to:

- Check age ratings of any apps or websites that your child accesses.
- Develop your child's digital literacy by highlighting the risks of AI and showing them how important it is to verify what they see online.
- Set up appropriate parental controls on their devices/ broadband.
- Chat to your child regularly and ensure your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

