



Advice for Parents and Carers –Online Safety Bulletin



Social Media APPS and Online Gaming



Setting Safety and Privacy Settings

Facebook *Minimum age: 13*

Facebook's privacy settings let your child control who sees their posts and timeline.

The checklist holds information on how to keep your Facebook profile under your control.

The Facebook Checklist quickly answers those common questions about Facebook profiles such as

- Who can find content I post?
- How does my profile appear?
- What is there about you on the web?
- How do you use 'Friends' lists?

If these questions weren't ever considered, the link below includes more. **Essentially a Facebook privacy survival guide!**

<https://swgfl.org.uk/Uploads/40/405a69f8-cfaf-403a-bb0f-90f473d13743.pdf>

Instagram *Minimum age: 13*

The checklist holds information on how to keep your Instagram profile under your control.

The Instagram Checklist quickly answers those common questions about your profile such as

- Is my account private or public?
- How to share with a select group of followers?
- How do I block someone?
- Do you know how to report a post?

If these questions weren't ever considered, the link below also includes other questions such as 'Do you know who your followers are?'

<https://swgfl.org.uk/Uploads/b6/b63b5695-3571-4960-8d7b-dc8c9f8c9b2e.pdf>

Snapchat *Minimum age: 13*

The checklist holds information on how to keep your Snapchat profile under your control.

The Snapchat Checklist quickly answers those common questions about your profile such as

- How can I stay in control?
- How do I find all my friends?
- How do I block and delete?
- How do I report a problem?

If these questions weren't ever considered, the link below also includes other questions such as 'What else can I do on Snapchat?'.

<https://swgfl.org.uk/Uploads/dc/dcf41561-f3f7-40d0-878a-523544e82d66.pdf>

YouTube *Minimum age: 13 for an account, no minimum to watch videos*

With over 400 hours of content uploaded to YouTube every minute, inevitably some of this content will be inappropriate for younger viewers. Because of the amount of content being uploaded to the site, other filters (including filters through your internet provider) may not function effectively enough for YouTube. In the link below we look at the things you can do to help your child stay safe when they're watching YouTube.

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/a-parents-guide-to-youtube-restricted-mode/>

YouTube Kids *aged 12 and under*

Google recently launched the YouTube Kids app, designed to offer only child-friendly content. You can't make comments or upload your own videos to YouTube Kids.

Parents can also turn off the search feature and set a time limit for how long their children can browse.

All the videos on YouTube Kids should be appropriate for children, but if you come across something you think has made it through by mistake, you can report it. Tap the **menu** icon at the top of the video player, choose **Report** and then choose **Yes**.

<https://www.youtube.com/yt/kids/>

What is WhatsApp?

WhatsApp is free to download messenger app for smartphones. WhatsApp uses the internet to send messages, images, audio or video. The service is very similar to text messaging services; however, because WhatsApp uses the internet to send messages, the cost of using WhatsApp is significantly less than texting. You can also use WhatsApp on your desktop, simply go to the WhatsApp [website](#) and download it to Mac or Windows. It is popular with teenagers because of features like group chatting, voice messages and location sharing. **UPDATE:** WhatsApp has changed its terms of service, raising the minimum age at which you can use the service from 13 to 16 years of age across Europe. Under the new E.U General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Ireland has now set the Digital Age of Consent to 16 years old. This means young people under the age of 16 in Ireland are not allowed to access this platform.

<https://www.webwise.ie/parents/explainer-whatsapp/>

Twitter Minimum age: 13

The checklist holds information on how to keep your Twitter profile under your control.

The Twitter Checklist quickly answers those common questions about your profile such as

- How do I protect my privacy?
- Who can follow me?
- How do I report something?
- How do I unfollow or delete content?

If these questions weren't ever considered, the link below also includes other questions such as 'What Is Twitter?'.

<https://swgfl.org.uk/Uploads/d8/d82e144e-707e-459d-90a6-4b6f9baeba08.pdf>

Yubo Minimum age: 13

Yubo, formerly Yellow, is a social media app encouraging teens to find new friends by allowing them to swipe left or right to connect and live stream.

Now with over 15 million users, a change of name and new safety features to give users a safer experience, creators of Yubo are seeking to address the safety concerns that were raised about the app when it was first launched in 2015.

Here is what you need to know about the app to keep kids safe.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/yubo-formerly-yellow-social-media-app-parents-need-know/>

TikTok – which used to be called Musical.ly. Minimum age: 13

TikTok is a social networking app that young people can use to generate and share their own short videos and lip sync to popular audio clips. The app allows users to create and upload videos, remix existing videos using in-built editing tools, and also to view and comment on videos created by other users.

Here is what you need to know about the app to keep kids safe

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/what-is-tiktok-looking-at-the-latest-lip-syncing-app>

Online gaming

Online gaming means you can play in real time with people across the world through a computer, games console, tablet or smartphone connected to the internet. Games can offer children a world of adventure to immerse themselves in, but it's important to understand how children can stay safe and what games are appropriate for their age.

Here is a link to let you know about keeping your kids safe.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/online-gaming/>

Roblox - PEGI 7

Is Roblox safe for children to play? Many parents are grappling with this question, following the recent concerns raised in the media. To help ease those fears, games expert Andy Robertson sheds light on the game and how it can be played safely.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/parents-guide-to-roblox-and-how-your-kids-can-play-it-safely/>

Fortnite - PEGI 12

Fortnite is an online game, which includes Battle Royale, where players do not have to pay to play. In Battle Royale, 100 players compete against each other to be the last person standing in player vs player (PVP) combat. Need to know more about Fortnite – the latest gaming craze? Games expert Andy Robertson gives a detailed outline of the game and offers great tips for parents to keep children safe while playing.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/fortnite-battle-royal-parents-guide-keep-kids-safe-gaming/>

XBOX ONE

Parental Controls for Xbox One can be set for each of your children's individual profiles, allowing you to prevent unauthorised purchases, ensuring your children only access age-appropriate content and restrict the ability to chat to strangers online.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/xbox-one/>

XBOX LIVE

Xbox Live Privacy Settings allow you to control how your child interacts with other players online and how much content they're exposed to. You can also add individual Xbox Live restrictions through your Xbox 360 and Xbox 360 One settings.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/xbox-live/>

Playstation 4

The PS4 parental controls allow you to restrict games and apps that have mature content. You can disable the internet browser, customise content displayed in the Store and restrict how your child chats and interact on the PlayStation Network.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/smartphones-and-other-devices/playstation-4-ps4/>

Playstation 3

The PS3 Parental Controls allow you to restrict games and DVDs with mature content, use of the internet browser and how your child can chat and interact on the PlayStation Network.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/smartphones-and-other-devices/playstation-3/>

Playstation Vita

The PS Vita Parental Controls can make the handheld console safer for your children by restricting games or videos with mature content, disabling the internet browser and blocking adult sites, and restricting how your child can chat on the PlayStation Network.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/playstation-vita-ps-vita/>

Using Parental Controls & Privacy Settings

Give your child a safe space to explore their curiosity online. Our step by step guides will help you to set up the right controls and privacy settings on the networks, gadgets, apps, and sites they use to give them a safer online experience. <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

You can help your children stay safe online by:

- **Knowing what they are doing online**
- **Knowing who their online friends are**
- **Talking to them about the dangers of sharing personal information and photos with strangers**
- **Making sure they can talk to you when they feel uncomfortable about something they have seen online**
- **Teaching them about privacy settings on social media**
- **Setting Parental controls**
- **Teaching them all about Digital Footprints**
- **Age appropriate sites and games**