

All About...

AGE RATINGS

ON GAMES

INTERNET SAFETY



In the UK all computer games (and 'computer games' or 'video games' is a term which includes games played on computers and consoles such as the Xbox, Playstation or Nintendo Switch as well as tablets and phones) have an age rating. These are commonly known as the PEGI ratings (Pan European Game Information).

Game ratings help parents decide whether a game is suitable for their children to play. Computer games can feature a wide range of content, including violence, horror, sex and drugs. It's important for parents to have a trusted source of information about whether they should let their children play a particular game.

The PEGI ratings are written by the Games Rating Authority who use input from experts in child development and child protection to come to their final rating. These ratings can change from time to time based upon concerns and comments from experts, parents and young people.

Below and on the next page is some information about what each PEGI rating means. It is important that parents carefully consider the impact that playing games with a higher PEGI rating than the child's age could have on their wellbeing. Please check the PEGI rating before buying or downloading a game for your child.

Please go to www.pegi.info to search for the age ratings of games, or google "PEGI rating".



PEGI 3

The content of games with a PEGI 3 rating is considered suitable for all age groups. The game should not contain any sounds or pictures that are likely to frighten young children. A very mild form of violence (in a comical context or a childlike setting) is acceptable. No bad language should be heard.



PEGI 7

Game content with scenes or sounds that can possibly be frightening to younger children should fall in this category. Very mild forms of violence (implied, non-detailed, or non-realistic violence) are acceptable for a game with a PEGI 7 rating.



PEGI 12

Video games that show violence of a slightly more graphic nature towards fantasy characters or non-realistic violence towards human-like characters would fall in this age category. Sexual innuendo or sexual posturing can be present, while any bad language in this category must be mild. **Games with this rating or higher are inappropriate for infant school aged children.**



PEGI !

In addition to the numerical PEGI ratings, you will also see the "Parental Guidance Recommended" rating for some non-game apps.

This serves as a warning that these apps can offer a broad variety of user generated or curated content. Typically, this applies to products such as Facebook, Twitter or YouTube. Because the content is generated by users around the world, it is not possible to accurately age-rate all of the content and young people may find inappropriate user-made content.



PEGI 16

This rating is applied once the depiction of violence (or sexual activity) reaches a stage that looks the same as would be expected in real life. The use of bad language in games with a PEGI 16 rating can be more extreme, while the use of tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs can also be present.



PEGI 18

The adult classification is applied when the level of violence reaches a stage where it becomes a depiction of gross violence, apparently motiveless killing, or violence towards defenceless characters. The glamorisation of the use of illegal drugs and of the simulation of gambling, and explicit sexual activity also falls into this age category.

Alongside the PEGI ratings there are often PEGI content descriptors. Here is what they mean.



The game contains depictions of violence. In games rated PEGI 7 this can only be non-realistic or non-detailed violence. Games rated PEGI 12 can include violence in a fantasy environment or non-realistic violence towards human-like characters, whereas games rated PEGI 16 or 18 have increasingly more realistic-looking violence.



The game contains bad language. This descriptor can be found on games with a PEGI 12 (mild swearing), PEGI 16 (e.g. sexual expletives or blasphemy) or PEGI 18 rating (e.g. sexual expletives or blasphemy).



This descriptor may appear as 'Fear' on games with a PEGI 7 if it contains pictures or sounds that may be frightening or scary to young children, or as 'Horror' on higher-rated games that contain moderate (PEGI 12) or intense and sustained (PEGI 16) horror sequences or disturbing images (not necessarily including violent content).



The game offers players the option to purchase digital goods or services with real-world currency. Such purchases include additional content (bonus levels, outfits, surprise items, music), but also upgrades (e.g. to disable ads), subscriptions to updates, virtual coins and other forms of in-game currency.



This content descriptor can accompany a PEGI 12 rating if the game includes sexual posturing or innuendo, a PEGI 16 rating if there is erotic nudity or sexual intercourse without visible genitals or a PEGI 18 rating if there is explicit sexual activity in the game. Depictions of nudity in a non-sexual context do not require a specific age rating, and this descriptor would not be necessary.



The game contains elements that encourage or teach gambling. These simulations of gambling refer to games of chance that are normally carried out in casinos or gambling halls. Some older titles can be found with PEGI 12 or PEGI 16, but PEGI changed the criteria for this classification in 2020, which made that new games with this sort of content are always PEGI 18.



The game refers to or depicts the use of illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco. Games with this content descriptor are always PEGI 16 or PEGI 18.



The game contains depictions of ethnic, religious, nationalistic or other stereotypes likely to encourage hatred. This content is always restricted to a PEGI 18 rating (and likely to infringe national criminal laws).

The games our children play...

Some of the children at Talavera Infant School have access to computer games at home. Below is some information about 3 of the games which are mentioned more frequently by children in our school, which we have concerns about. Playing computer games can be a fun, often exciting and sometimes social activity for children but please ensure you check the **PEGI rating** of the games and adhere to the **age restrictions**.



Fortnite



In Fortnite, players work together to survive in an open-world environment, by battling other characters who are controlled either by the game itself or by other players.

The single-player or co-operative (played with friends) mode, called '**Save the World**', involves fighting off zombie-like creatures.

Fortnite's most popular mode is its standalone free-to-play multiplayer platform, '**Battle Royale**'. Up to 100 players enter an online game, competing individually or as part of squads of up to four, to be the last player standing within a battle arena that gets continuously smaller.

There is also a '**Creative Mode**', in which players create their own buildings and play mini-games.

Because Fortnite contains different variations, each has its own PEGI rating.

Fortnite: Save The World



Fortnite: Battle Royal



Fortnite: Creative Mode



Roblox



Roblox is an app that allows users to play a wide variety of games, create games, and chat with others online. It combines gaming and social media and users can make in-app purchases. Games on Roblox are officially called "experiences" and can fall into a variety of genres. Roblox users can talk to each other and create and play each others games.

Because the content on Roblox is created by users and people can communicate with each other, it has been given a Parental Guidance rating — every 'experience' (game) is different, so parents must assess for themselves the suitability for their children.



Minecraft



Minecraft is a game where players place blocks and go on adventures. The blocks can be used to craft anything from simple items like containers or weapons, to building structures like houses, castles, and cities. It is similar to an computer generated world of lego bricks that allow the user to create anything they can think of.

Gameplay in Minecraft is split into two different modes: 'survival mode' and 'creative mode'. In survival mode players must use and create equipment and buildings from a limited supply of resources to help them survive the environment and monsters. Creative mode offers a more open-ended experience, where players do not have to worry about health or being attacked by enemies. In creative mode, players can fly and have access to an unlimited amount of in-game resources.

All About...

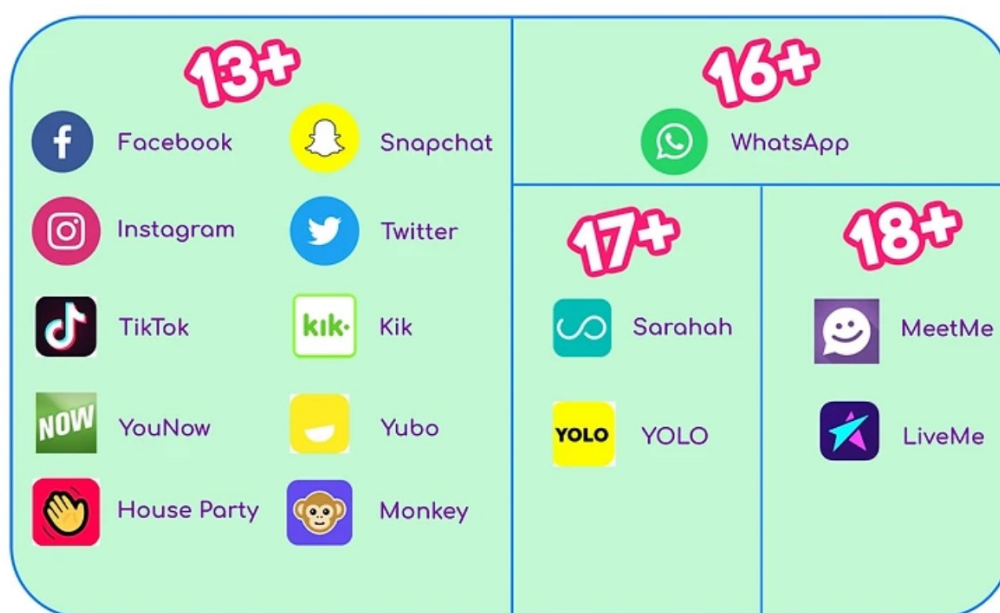


INTERNET SAFETY

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media is a collective term for websites and applications that focus on communication, interaction and content-sharing (which could range from text and photos to videos and some games). People use social media to stay in touch with friends, family and various groups which interest them. Businesses use social media to market and promote their products and talk to customers.

The most popular social media platforms in recent years were Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, and TikTok. Below are the minimum age requirements for each of these platforms, alongside some others you may be familiar with. Children younger than the minimum age requirement should not be using these social media sites:



Why are a lot of social media apps 13+?

As you can see, many social media apps have an age rating of 13+. This is because of the data processing policies that social media companies need to adhere to. Under the COPPA (Children's Online Privacy Protection Act) Law, social media companies are not allowed to collect or store any personal information about any people under the age of 13, unless they have permission from their Parents/Carers. So, social media companies list their minimum age as 13.

However it is important to know that if the age rating were to do with **content** (what children will actually see and read), **the age ratings may be higher**. For example, while TikTok's terms state that any user needs to be over the age of 13, some of the content that is being generated on that platform would not be appropriate for someone under the age of 18.

Children at infant school age **should not** be using social media because of the **risks** associated with it.

Understand the risks children may need to deal with

What they could see or do:

- Seeing or sharing of violent, sexual and pornographic content
- Inaccurate or false information and extreme views
- Promotion of harmful behaviours including self-harm, anorexia and suicide
- Over-sharing of personal information
- Actively or unintentionally getting involved in bullying or hurtful behaviour

Who they might meet:

- People who might bully, intimidate or frighten
- People posing behind fake profiles for:
 - Mischief-making
 - Sexual grooming and stalking
 - Blackmail and extortion
 - Identity theft and hacking

How this could affect them

- Fear of missing out leading to excessive use or exaggeration
- Getting upset by things they have seen and being uncertain about what to do
- Engaging, or being pressured into engaging in more risky behaviour either by accident or by design
- Developing unrealistic, and perhaps depressing ideals of body image and gender
- Becoming subject to peer pressure or interactions that are intense or too difficult to handle
- Creating an online reputation that may create problems for them in the future



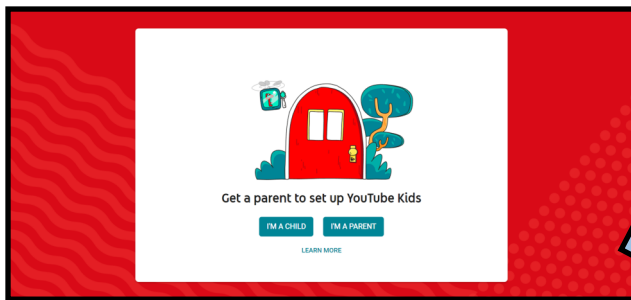
The one possible exception to the rules is Youtube, which **can** be used by younger users if proper precautions are taken. We know many children enjoy choosing videos on Youtube, but a lot of the content available is inappropriate for children as videos can be uploaded by any user in the world, for free. Many Youtube videos feature strong language, violence, partial nudity or controversial topics that may not be appropriate for infant children.

Youtube has a dedicated channel called Youtube Kids which can be set up using your own account.

First, you will need to have your own Youtube account. Then, visit the website:

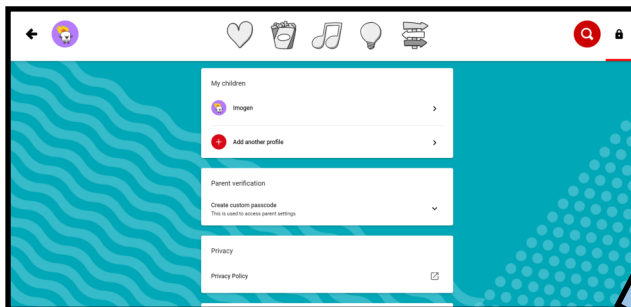
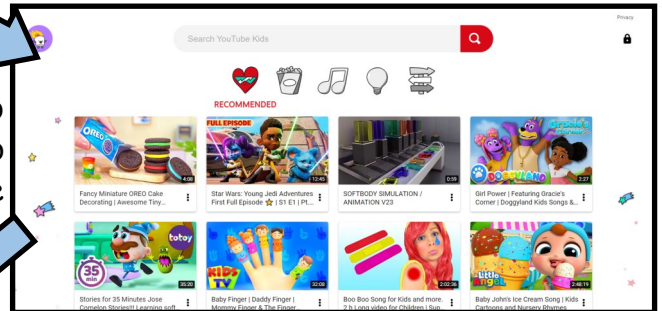
www.youtubekids.com

For further, detailed instruction, please turn the page.

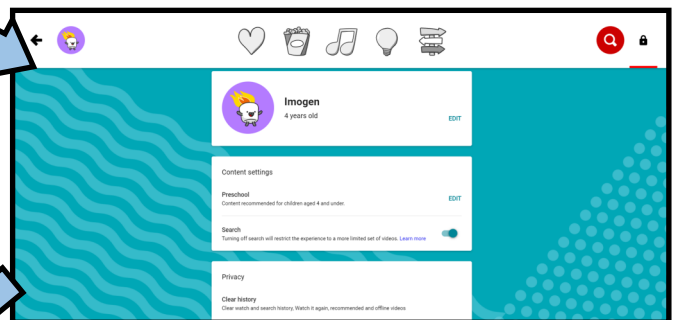


You can only set up an account as a parent. After you have clicked 'I'm a parent' and entered your year of birth, there is a tutorial video. Then you log in using your own adult

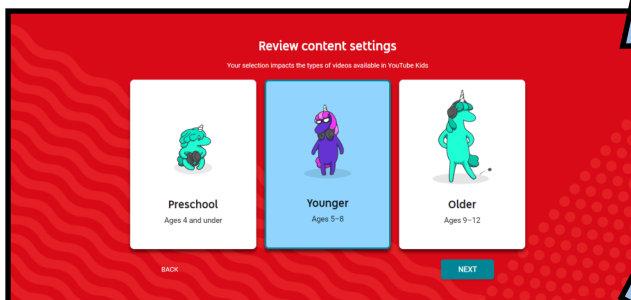
This is the Home Screen. Click the padlock to change the settings of your child's account to make sure what they are viewing is age appropriate.



Once you have clicked the padlock and answered the simple security question, select your child's name and use your password to gain access to the settings.

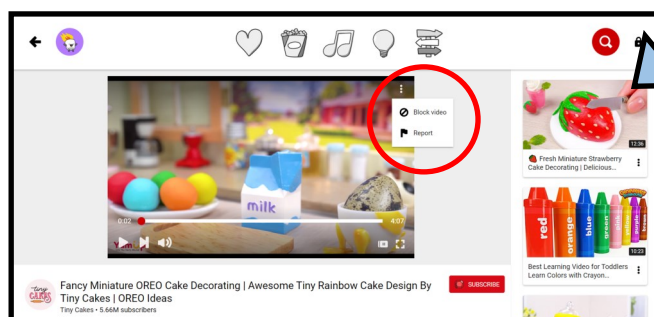
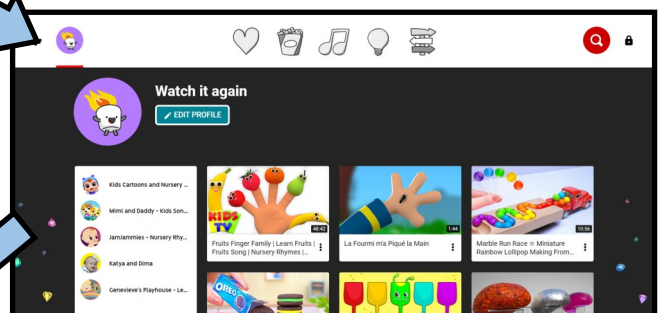


Under 'contents settings' click 'edit' to change the age group your child is in.



Choose 'Preschool' for 4 year olds and under, 'Younger' for 5—8 year olds, and 'Older' for older children.

Go back to the Home Screen and select your child's profile picture in the top left corner. This will lead you to a page called 'Watch it Again' which shows all of the videos your child



Whilst your child is watching a video, if you determine that it is not appropriate, click the three dots in the corner of the video then choose 'block' to stop your child from seeing the video, or 'report' to alert Youtube that it

All About...



INTERNET SAFETY

SMART SPEAKERS

Often when we talk about internet safety, people imagine computers, phones, tablets and games consoles. Over recent years a new type of technology has become very popular in homes—**smart speakers**. It is important that children know how to use smart speakers safely.

A white smart speaker with a grey base, emitting sound waves and a musical note icon.

How can smart speakers help?

Smart speakers can connect to a range of apps to allow you to;

- Stream music
- Play voice-based games
- Set reminders
- Shop online
- Support children with reading and other key skills

Things to Think About



Personal Information

Many smart speakers are **always quietly listening** and collecting data to be more helpful but it's important to be aware of how this information is stored. Make sure to check your **privacy settings** on the account that controls your device and set these to a level you are happy with.



Hidden Costs

Be aware that if you are connecting your device to other apps and devices there may be a subscription fee to pay. Additionally, if you connect your speaker to your debit and credit cards, children may be able to make **unwanted purchases**.

Streaming Music and Internet Searches

If your device is not set up with **parental controls** your child may be able to play music with **explicit lyrics**. They also may be able to hear information from search engines which discuss **mature topics**.



What can you do to help your child use Smart Speakers safely and responsibly?



Talk with your child about responsible use of your smart speaker

Discuss what is okay and not okay to use their smart speaker for. Talk about time limits and expectations of where the device can and cannot be used, this could include things like the speaker helping with homework or not adding items to shopping lists using the speaker.



Discuss what to do if something upsetting or worrying happens.

This could be to stop talking to it, leave the room and tell an adult.



Explore parental controls

Take a look at the controls available both on the speaker itself and on your home Wi-Fi. Talk these through with your child too. Parental controls are a helpful tool, but an open conversation with your child is the most important thing.

Use strong passwords – Use well-protected passwords for you and your kids to avoid potential hackers.

Keep your software up to date – Companies release security updates and features so it's a good rule to stay on top of these updates.

Mute your speakers – To control what your smart speakers hear, is to mute the device when you're not using it.

Review your voice and audio interactions – You can control what is shared. With some smart speakers, you are able to review your voice interactions, delete or turn off auto-saving of interactions altogether.



LOADING.....



Most of this information in this newsletter comes from Internet Matters
(www.internetmatters.org).

Please visit their website for a large amount of very informative and useful information about how to keep your children safe on a range of devices.

All About...



INTERNET SAFETY

STREAMING TELEVISION SHOWS

There are a huge variety of television shows and films that children can access at the push of a button thanks to online **streaming services**. A streaming service is an online provider of entertainment that delivers content via an Internet connection to the subscriber's computer, TV or mobile device.

Ensuring that young children were only viewing **age-appropriate** content was much easier when there were only one or two screens in a family home and mature programming was only shown after 9pm. However, today children have access to multiple personal devices and on-demand streaming, so it is more difficult to ensure they are always watching age-appropriate shows.

Fortunately, most providers offer some kind of **Parental Control**. Here is how to set them up.



Netflix is appropriate for all ages if parents set up accounts that show only age appropriate content. Adult profiles have access to adult content and are not appropriate for children. Here is how to set up a Children's profile:

- Log into your Netflix account
- Go to your 'Manage Profiles' page.
- Select 'Add Profile'.
- Name the profile. To use the Netflix Kids experience, select Kids. Select Continue. The new profile will show on the list of profiles on your account.
- Select 'Manage Users' to edit the Children's account to change the 'maturity settings' to be appropriate to the age of your child.



Whilst Disney originally created content for children, it now owns and creates a lot of shows for adult audiences. Similarly to Netflix, you can create a Children's profile so that they can easily access age-appropriate material.

- Log into your account page on [Disneyplus.com](https://disneyplus.com)
- Choose your own profile, then, once you're on the main TV menu, head up to the top right hand corner, and select add profiles (to add a new Kids' profile) or edit profiles (to change an existing profile to a Kids' one).
- If you are creating a new kids profile, select the icon you want, then select the 'kids' options.



You cannot set up a children's profile on Apple TV, but you can add a passcode that will prevent children from accessing different features unless they know the code. Here is how to set it up:

- Open settings.
- Go to 'General', then 'Restrictions'. You might need to enter a passcode.
- Select options to restrict iTunes Store purchases and rentals, allowed content types, Game Centre settings and other settings.
- You must first turn on restrictions to configure the restrictions settings. Then, to access restricted content, you must enter the passcode each time.



- Create an adult profile by entering your email address and creating a password.
- From your account, you will be able to create a children's profile, which will allow children to access Cbeebies and CBBC content (the dedicated children's BBC channels) without accessing adult programming.
- To use BBC iPlayer you will need a TV License.



Amazon's streaming service is used on a huge variety of devices, and the way you switch to its parental controls varies slightly on each operating system. However, this guide should get you to the right place.

- First find the 'Settings' menu. This might be under 'My Stuff'.
- Select 'Parental Controls'. You may also need to select 'Viewing Restrictions'.
- Choose the restrictions you require. You might need to enter your PIN too.
- Restricted content will then need a pin number to be entered before can be viewed.



- Go to www.itv.com and select "Sign In" from the navigation bar at the top.
- If you have an ITV Hub account, log in, otherwise follow the prompts to create an account.
- Once you are logged in, navigate to a show that you suspect will have a G Rating (unsuitable for children) and select the padlock.
- You will be prompted to enter a four digit pin and to provide a security question which will be used if you forget your pin.
- You are now set up and any video you select with a G-Rating will ask for your pin before allowing you to view it.

Please note that a G-Rating is any content deemed unsuitable for under 16s. That means infant aged children would still have access to content made for teenagers, which in many cases may be inappropriate.



All4 and My5

Very similarly to ITVX, you can set up a pin number to restrict children from viewing content for 16+ year olds, however they can still access content for older children and teenagers up to 15 which in many cases may be inappropriate.



NOW TV does not provide the option to create profiles, so all content is available for all users. However, you can set up a pin number that will need to be entered to access content for older users. Here is how to change the age rating for which your viewing PIN will be required:

- Head to the Settings & PINs area of My Account.
- Select 'Change' in the 'Parental controls' section.
- Enter your viewing PIN, choose your desired age rating, then Save.

YouTube Kids

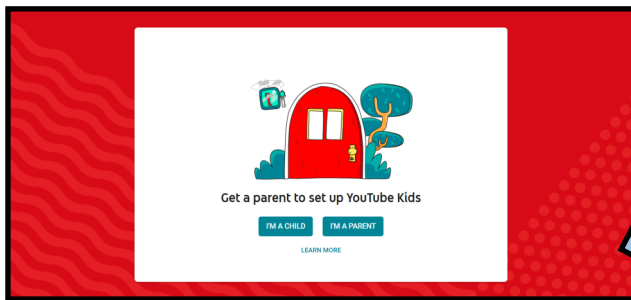
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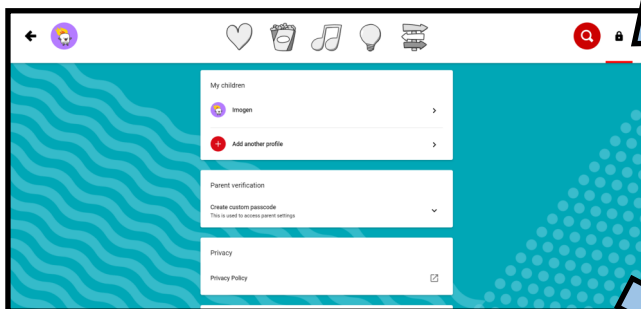
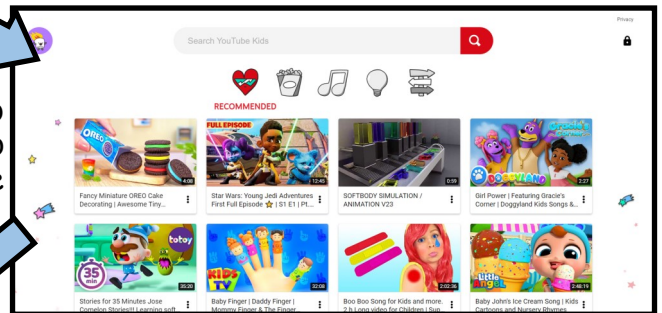
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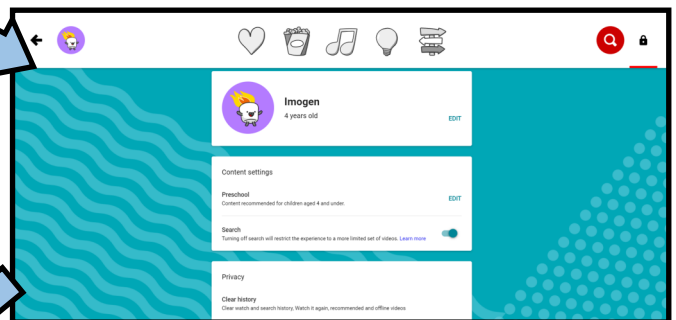


You can only set up an account as a parent. After you have clicked 'I'm a parent' and entered your year of birth, there is a tutorial video. Then you log in using your own adult Youtube account.

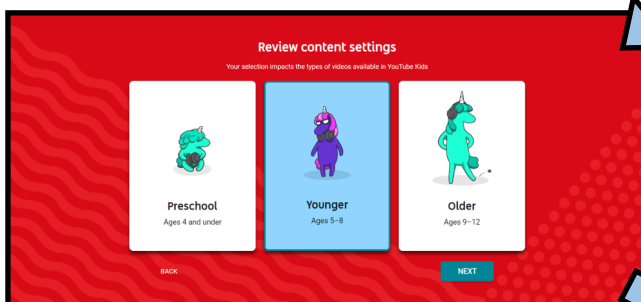
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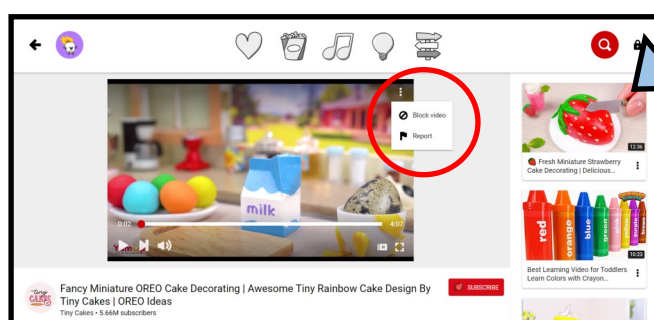
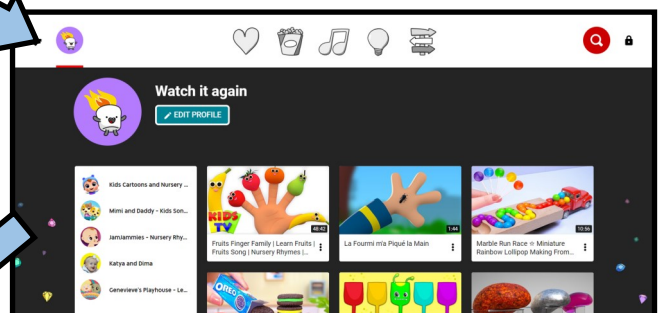


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Whilst your child is watching a video, if you determine that it is not appropriate, click the three dots in the corner of the video then choose 'block' to stop your child from seeing the video, or 'report'; to alert Youtube that it contains dangerous/inappropriate content.

All About...

PARENTAL CONTROLS

INTERNET SAFETY



Parental controls allow you to **block** and **filter** 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 and manage the content that different family members can see.

It is unlikely that an adult will be present and watching the entire time a child is using a device connected to the internet. Setting up parental controls can help to ensure your child stays safe online and only has access to age-appropriate content.

Below you will find details of how to set up parental controls different types of technology your child may have access to. If your child uses a device that is not listed here and you need assistance, please contact the school.



Android devices are linked to **Google** accounts.

How Google Play parental controls work:

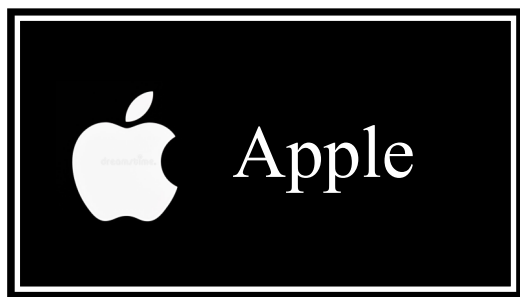
- Parental controls only apply to the Android device that you added them on. To put parental controls on another device, repeat the steps below on the other devices.
- If you have multiple users on a device, you can set up different parental controls for each person. The person who sets up parental controls will create a PIN that needs to be entered to remove or change the parental controls.

It is important to note that parental controls on an android device don't prevent restricted content as a search result or through a direct link.

How to set up parental controls

1. Open the Google Play app .
2. At the top right, tap the profile icon.
3. Tap **Settings** → **Family** → **Parental controls**.
4. Turn on **Parental controls**.
5. To protect parental controls, create a **PIN** that your child doesn't know.
6. Select the type of content that you want to filter.
7. Choose how to filter or restrict access.





On your apple devices you can prevent access to music with explicit content and films or TV programmes with specific ratings. Apps also have ratings that can be configured using content restrictions.

To restrict explicit content and content ratings:

1. Go to **Settings** and tap **Screen Time**.
2. Tap **Content & Privacy Restrictions**, then tap **Content Restrictions**.
3. Choose the settings you want for each feature or setting under Allowed Store Content.

Using the 'Screen Time' menu found in settings, you can also:

- prevent iTunes and App Store purchases
- allow or dis-allow already downloaded apps or features
- prevent web content and add specific websites to an approved or blocked list (please note that no web content filter is 100% effective and your child should still be supervised when searching on the internet).
- restrict Siri web searches (as above, this is not 100% guaranteed to restrict all inappropriate content so please supervise your children when they use Siri)
- restrict access to the Game Centre.



To set up parental controls on your desktop computer or laptop you will need a **Microsoft** account, which is free. It will also require you to have an email address for your child, or access to a second email address that is not the one used for your own Microsoft account. Once you have registered for a Microsoft account, follow these steps:

1. Sign into your own Microsoft account.
2. Set up a child account. To do this go to **Windows Settings** and select **Family**.
3. Click **Add a family member**.
4. Follow the instructions to create a Microsoft account for your child. Enter your child's email address (or a different adult's email address you have access to) or follow the instructions to create one.
5. Once a child account is set up, your child will receive an email asking them to accept your invitation.
6. Once they have accepted, click on **Manage Family Settings Online** to set up parental controls.

All parental control settings are turned off by default. Enable the features individually and customise your settings. You can monitor online activity, set screen time, set app and game limits, and restrict content and spending limits.



To set up parental controls on a Kindle Fire (the **Amazon** device):

1. Swipe down from the top of the screen and tap **Settings** (the gear icon).
2. Tap **Parental Controls** and toggle it on.
3. Enter a password that your child doesn't know.

Once you have completed these steps, by default this will block Alexa, the Silk web browser, email, contacts, calendars, and the camera. You can choose to turn any of them back on in the settings menu. It will also password-protect purchases and videos and block social sharing.

You can also toggle on **Set Restricted Access** which will allow you to set which hours the Kindle will work without your password, and which hours your child would need a password from you to use the device.



The best way to set up parental controls on an **Xbox One**, **Xbox Series S** or **Xbox Series X** is to install the **Xbox Family Settings** app on your phone. From this app you will be able to add up to seven other family members to your Xbox family, including children. You will then be able to follow very simple instructions to add restrictions whilst your child is on the Xbox.

Xbox is owned by **Microsoft**, so your child will need their own Microsoft account before you can add them to your Xbox family and set up parental controls. See the blue information on the previous page about setting up your child's Microsoft account. Alternatively, you can set up an account for your child using the app itself.

From inside this app you will be able to set a screen time limit, update which content you would like to be restricted and review and respond to requests to add console screen time. Additionally, you can set up your child's account so that they cannot add new friends without your approval, and you can remove people they are in contact with.



Before you begin you will need to set up a PlayStation account for your child. To make sure any parental controls that you put in place are effective, make sure that you have completed the email verification for your child's PlayStation account and that they are signed in to PlayStation Network (PSN) on their consoles. If you change parental control settings whilst your child is playing a game, have your child log out and log back in again for the changes to take effect.

Parental control settings for PlayStation are not tied to any one device, but to an account. If you change a

On **PS4**:

1. Go to **Settings > Parental Controls/Family Management > Family Management**.
2. Select the child family member you want to set restrictions for and select a feature to adjust.

On **PS5**:

1. Go to **Settings > Family and Parental Controls > Family Management**.
2. Select the child family member you want to set restrictions for and select a feature to adjust.

All About...

STAYING SAFE

ONLINE

INTERNET SAFETY



Being **safe online** means protecting yourself and others from online dangers and risks. These online dangers could:

- ♦ put your **personal information** at risk
- ♦ lead to **unsafe communication**
- ♦ lead to **false, inappropriate** or **illegal** content being observed
- ♦ negatively effect your **mental health** and **wellbeing**

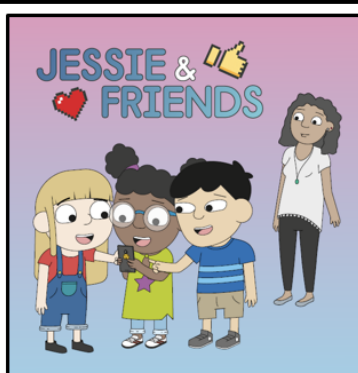
As adults, we are more able to determine which information is inappropriate or harmful, and cease accessing it. Children need to be specifically taught of the dangers of being online in a straight-forward and reassuring manner, without scaring them.

At Talavera Infant School we teach Year 1 and Year 2 about Internet Safety in the Autumn Term. We then revisit what we learnt throughout the year, each time the children need to access the internet at school. Additionally, in February we celebrate Safer Internet Day, which is also how Year R are introduced to the idea of Internet Safety.

Year 1

In Year 1 we teach planning adapted from the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) programme 'Jesse and Friends'. Through child-friendly videos and discussion, we teach the children which information is personal information and that private information is private. We discuss which adults could help us if we were worried about something we saw online. Finally, we teach the children that photos and information that is put online can be shared and seen by lots of people. Each time the children use the internet, we revisit what Jesse and Friends taught us.

You could talk to your children about this at home when they use the internet.



What is **personal information**?

Remember, your personal information is **private**!

Who can you talk to if you need **help** while you are online?

Remember, photos and information can be **shared** and seen by others!

Year 2

In Year 2 we teach planning adapted from the Childnet Digiduck planning, and the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) programme 'Lee and Kim's Adventure' in which a super hero called Sid helps the children to stay safe online. During these lessons the children learn which information is personal information and that private information is private. They learn to identify adults who can help them. They also learn to recognise the different feelings we can experience online and that people online are strangers. Each time the children use the internet, we revisit Sid's Top Tips.

You could talk to your children about this at home when they use the internet.



More Information

For more information about how to keep your children safe online, please visit the following websites:

NSPCC — <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

CEOP / Thinkuknow — <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Childnet — <https://www.childnet.com/>

UK Safer Internet Centre — <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>