Knowsley City Learning Centres

Online Safety Newsletter February 2024

Setting up parental controls on your child's mobile

If you do not have the same mobile phone as your child, and therefore are unable to use Google Family link or Apple Family Sharing, then you can set restrictions on your child's device instead.

Apple devices:

To set up restrictions on your child's device directly (rather than using an app) then follow the instructions on the link below:

https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201304

The instructions will show you how to get to the settings on your child's phone and then how to set restrictions such as restrict content, schedule downtime, set time limits for apps. You will need to set a passcode 'use a screentime passcode' to ensure changes cannot be made after you have set them.

Android devices:

As with the above link, this link shows you how to set up parental controls on the device itself by creating a PIN:

https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738?hl=en-GB#zippy=%2Cfor-family-members-who-manage-their-own-accounts

PlayStation

Does your child have a PlayStation? If so, have you set up appropriate parental controls? Some examples of the parental controls available are:

- Set age restrictions,
- Set daily limits,
- Control chat and messaging,
- Set spend limits.

How can I block/report other players?

If your child is playing with other players, then please ensure they know how to report/block other players and to tell a trusted adult if they do come across anything upsetting or that they are unsure of. This link details how to do this based on the device they have:
https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/block-players-psn/

What games are suitable for my child?

PlayStation have included a list of games along with their age rating to help you find a game that may be appropriate for your child to play.
https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/editorial/great-ps4-games-for-kids-and-families/

Whilst age ratings do allow you to see if a game may be appropriate, it is also important to review the game yourself and see if it includes additional features such as chat. This will allow you to make an informed decision as to whether it is suitable and if you need to apply further parental controls.

Further information

You can find out more about the controls available here:
https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/parental-controls/

YouTube Shorts

You should be over 13 to post videos on YouTube. YouTube Shorts are short videos which are similar in format to videos you find on TikTok or Instagram Reels. 'Shorts' are available to watch on the YouTube homepage or on the Shorts tab in the app. As they are quick to watch, they can be addictive and lead to excessive screen time. If your child is watching these videos, ensure they know that there is a report button. The INEQUE Safeguarding Group discuss this feature in more detail here:

https://ineqe.com/2021/07/01/youtube-shorts-need-to-know/

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into.
Current as of the date released 01.02.24.

Snapchat: new controls

What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is a social media app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. **You must be 13+ to sign up.** Users can send messages (snaps) to others that are only seen for a set time e.g., 10 seconds and users can also upload snaps to stories, which disappear after 24 hours.

You can find out more about Snapchat here: https://parents.snapchat.com/en-GB

Family Center: new features

Snapchat are expanding the features available to you in their Family Center, allowing parents to view:

- story settings: you will be able to see who your child is sharing their story with e.g. all their friends or a smaller group.
- contact settings: see who your child can be contacted by (by people they have added as a friend or their phone contacts).
- if your child is sharing their location with friends on the Snap Map.

In addition, you will be able to restrict the use of Snapchat's 'My AI.' You can find out more here:

https://values.snap.com/en-GB/news/expanding-our-in-app-parental-tools-2024

More information

The NSPCC provide further information about Snapchat, **the risks involved** with using Snapchat and **tips to help keep your child safe** if they are using Snapchat.

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/is-snapchat-safe-for-my-child/

At what age can my child start using social networks?

Internet Matters have produced this fantastic resource highlighting the minimum age limits for a variety of social media platforms as well as outlining the risks of being underage on social media. You can find out more here:

https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/what-age-can-my-child-start-social-networking

Reality Check from Parent Zone

Most VR Headsets have a minimum age recommendation of 13+ and VR games are rated by PEGI too so check their age rating/suitability.

Parent Zone, VoiceBox and Meta have created a series of videos explaining the safety and parental control tools available when using VR and how to have a conversation with your child about VR. Find out more here:

https://parentzone.org.uk/realitycheck

Online Safety advice for Early Years

Internet Matters have teamed up with EE to create 'Online Safety Starts Early.' This is a 4-episode series, for those with children in Early Years. Episode one highlights how to create positive habits from the beginning and then provides links to additional resources.

https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/0-5/online-safety-video-guides-early-years/

EE Learn

EE Learn includes an array of information and guidance on how to keep your child safe online, for example tips on how to help your child when they are online. Find out more here:

https://ee.co.uk/do-more-with-ee/learn