



Termly Computing Online Safety Newsletter

Online Safety Newsletter *Autumn 2021*

Social Media Apps

What age should my child be to use these apps?



What risks are there of my child using these apps?

Whilst there are benefits to being online, there are risks too regardless of your child's age. Risks include your child viewing inappropriate content, sharing personal information, cyberbullying and grooming.

Reporting functions

If your child is using any of the above apps then make sure you show them how to use the reporting facilities within each app and ensure your child knows that they must tell you or another trusted adult if they see anything upsetting online. Use the apps together and explore the different security and privacy settings.

Further information

Is your child too young to use the above apps but is still asking you if they can join social media? Then you could suggest an alternative option. Internet Matters list several apps that have been created for younger children—they are grouped for ages 6 – 10 and ages 11 – 13:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-networks-made-for-kids/>

Net Aware provide further information about the most popular apps, games and social media sites: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/>

Your Digital footprint

SQUID GAME

What is Squid Game?

Squid Game is a South Korean thriller and features some scenes of fairly brutal violence and is rated 15 by the BBFC. It follows a group of adults who compete to win innocent-looking playground games, but who are killed if they do not succeed at the tasks.

What are the hazards for children?

On the show, characters are executed if they fail in the game – and videos of people pretending to kill each other after competing in Squid Game-style contests are going viral on social media, where they are easily accessible to children.

What can trusted adults do?

Keep a watchful eye on the content that your children are viewing. Ensure that the parental controls are activated on your child's device and that age-restricted child profiles are properly set up on any on-demand services available through the family TV to prevent inappropriate content being streamed.



What is a Digital Footprint?

A Digital Footprint is any information that is available online about you (even information shared by others), for example, photos, posts, and comments that you have made. We need to support children in developing a positive footprint by encouraging them to think about what they share and that they have appropriate privacy settings in place.

Further reading:

Childline provide further information as well as tips on how to protect your privacy and how to delete things online:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/>

Screen time

What is screen time?

It is the amount of time that we spend on a phone, computer, watching television or on a games console. Often, we worry about how much screen time our children are having and unfortunately, there is a lack of research to determine how much screen time our children should have. Following guidance released in 2019 by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), Professor Russell Viner, President of RCPCH suggests:

“that parents make decisions about screen time based on their child's development and health, and whether they are getting enough exercise and sleep. It remains a question of balance, as it is when screen use gets in the way or restricts other activities that a child's well-being can be negatively impacted.”

Further information:

<https://parentinfo.org/article/screen-time-should-i-be-worried>

<https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/young-people-and-screentime-a-good-start/>

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/digital/5-a-day/>

YouTube



New supervised experience (beta version)

YouTube have created a new 'supervised experience' for children who perhaps are ready to explore more than what is offered by YouTube Kids (YouTube Kids is still recommended for younger children) but are not old enough to use YouTube (you should be over 13 years of age). This new experience is managed by you by creating a supervised Google Account linking to your child's account. The supervised experience is still in beta version. It offers three content settings which are as follows: Explore: For children ready to explore content on YouTube, this setting will include content generally suitable for ages 9+. Explore More: Content generally suitable for viewers ages 13+, this setting will include more content as well as live streams. Most of YouTube: This setting will contain almost all YouTube content (except age-restricted content) so it will include sensitive topics that may only be appropriate for older teens. Whilst YouTube have systems in place to block inappropriate content, no system is perfect so your child may still see something unsuitable. Talk to your child about how to stay safe online and what to do if they do come across anything unsuitable (they should talk to a trusted adult). There are reporting mechanisms within YouTube so make sure you and your child know how to report anything inappropriate.