



Termly Computing Online Safety Newsletter

Online Safety Newsletter

Spring 2022

Smart TV /

Streaming services

There are so many TV streaming services available now such as Netflix, Prime, Apple TV, Now TV and Disney as well as more families having Smart TVs, which connect to the internet and allow you to download apps and access YouTube for example. This means our children potentially have access to a lot more content, some of which may not always be appropriate to watch.

If your child does access content through these services then, as always, make sure you set parental controls so they can only view content that is suitable for their age.

Each service will have their own parental control settings with most of them using a Parental PIN so you can restrict what can be viewed (and purchased in some cases).



TikTok

You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok. Users can watch musical clips, record clips (it includes lots of lip synching and dancing), edit them and add special effects.

Why should I be concerned?

You need to be aware that some of the videos may contain explicit language and sexual imagery, which may not be suitable for your child to view. There is also the risk of strangers contacting your child so make sure you have set up the appropriate settings.

Your child should not be using TikTok. If you have older children (aged 13+) then we recommend setting the account as private (this is the default setting for users under 16 since Jan 2021). Even with a private account, your child's profile information such as their photo and bio are still visible so ensure your child understands the importance of not adding personal information (e.g. location, age and phone numbers) to this area. This article explains how you can strengthen your privacy settings and what features are turned off by default for accounts for children aged 13 – 15: <https://newsroom.tiktok.com/enus/strengthening-privacy-and-safety-for-youth>

Family Pairing

This allows parents to link their own TikTok account to their child's account. This will allow you to set controls such as restricted mode (limit the appearance of inappropriate content) and screen time management (control how long they can spend on TikTok each day). You can find out more here: <https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide/>

Challenges and Trends

Lots of them are fun and not harmful but sometimes they can be risky. TikTok have produced this resource to help you talk to your child about challenges and the potential risks: <https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en-sg/online-challenges/>.

Blocking and Reporting

As with similar apps, there is the ability to report and block other users so ensure your child knows how to use these features:

- <https://support.tiktok.com/en/safety-hc/report-a-problem>
- <https://support.tiktok.com/en/using-tiktok/followers-andfollowing/blocking-the-users>



Being online

If your child is online (for example playing games, using Snapchat, Instagram etc), then it's important that you talk to your child about **being kind online**, for example only posting positive comments, not saying anything they wouldn't say in real life and treat others as they would expect to be treated.



Your child also needs to be aware that what they see online isn't always the full picture. People only share what they want you to see and images are often filtered. It is also important that your child knows how to block and report any inappropriate behaviour when they see it.

BBC Own It have curated a collection of videos, quizzes, and tips to help make the web a kinder place: <https://www.bbc.com/ownit/curations/being-kind-online>



Further information

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/onlinemobile-safety/feeling-good-on-social-media/>

What is your child playing online?

Is your child playing/viewing games through Twitch, Steam, Roblox etc? If so, they may be viewing inappropriate content, for example watching and playing horror survival games.

Make sure that what your child is accessing is age appropriate.

TWO LEVELS OF INFORMATION AS A GUIDE: THE PEGI AGE LABELS



THE CONTENT DESCRIPTORS



LEGO Build and Talk

LEGO® have created Build and Talk to help you chat to your child about digital safety and wellbeing. Firstly, you pick an activity to do and then you read a story, which includes questions and conversation prompts, whilst they build with their LEGO®. This is a great way to start talking about online safety with your child! <https://www.lego.com/en-gb/sustainability/children/buildandtalk/>

Whilst you're there, view their guides on key topics related to online safety <https://www.lego.com/en-gb/sustainability/children/digital-child-safety/> or play Doom the Gloom with your child, which will support them in using the internet safely: <https://www.lego.com/en-gb/campaigns/kids/doom-thegloom>

Find my phone

Did you know that you can set up location settings on your phone (and for your child) so you can share your location and find out where they are? Talk to your child about why you are setting this up and when and why you will check their location. Find out more using the links below.

Apple: <https://www.apple.com/uk/icloud/findmy/> or use this link if you have Family Sharing set up: <https://support.apple.com/engb/HT201087>

Android: <https://support.google.com/android/answer/3265955#zippy=%2Cstep-checkthat-find-my-device-is-on> or use this link if you have Family Link set up: <https://support.google.com/families/an/answer/7103413?hl=en>

Don't share passwords

Does your child understand that they should not share their passwords with others? The risks include the other user viewing personal information about your child, they could take control of your child's account by changing the password and then use the account inappropriately or they could spend money from your child's account.

Learn more here: <https://www.childnet.com/help-andadvice/new-online-accounts/how-can-i-keep-my-account-secure/>

Gaming – has your child been offered gifts?

It has been known for offenders to gift children items (such as loot boxes) whilst playing online games. They may do this to develop trust and a relationship with your child. This can be part of the grooming process. Thinkuknow offer further guidance:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/in-game-chat/>