



Welcome to our December newsletter all about E-Safety! As we continue to navigate ourselves through Covid-19 times, we know that the time children spend on devices is ever increasing. This Christmas some children may be lucky enough to receive a mobile phone, games console or other device that has the potential to connect to the internet. We know you will join us in wanting to keep them safe. Below is some information and guidance to help keep your child protected this Christmas.

Over the last 12 months, the Local Authority have seen an increase in the number of schools reporting that students, while at home, have accessed content which is not always appropriate, some of which has been quite scary or upsetting. While there is no perfect way to eliminate this risk, there are things parents and carers can do to support their children online, reduce the risk or manage it after the fact. Here are some of the steps you can follow. Scan the QR codes for further support.

- Contact your Internet Service Provider (ISP): Companies that provide broadband such as BT, Sky and Virgin, offer free protection. They can filter your internet connection directly, without having to install anything.
- YouTube is a fantastic resource, but not all the content is appropriate for children and not all YouTube channels are made for young audiences. YouTube has an app just for children - YouTube Kids - but many people don't realise that the main YouTube app has a restricted mode.
- Games consoles have features that can limit what games children can play based on the age ratings, and can even turn off certain features to allow gaming to be a little safer.
- Games are also rated based on the content, not how difficult they are. 18 rated games can have very graphic violence, adult language and themes, sexual content and horror elements.



Many parents/carers are unsure about how to set up parental controls. Scan the QR code for step by step guides for the following devices:

- Smart phones and other devices — Amazon Echo guide, Apple's Family Sharing, BBC Own It App, Kids Safe Mode on Sky Q and Windows guides.
- Entertainment and search engines - Google, YouTube, ITV, Sky Go, BBC iPlayer, Netflix, Twitch, Zoom etc.
- Broadband and Mobile networks - BT, O2, PlusNet, Sky Broadband, Virgin Mobile, Talk Talk, EE, iD mobile, Three etc.
- Social Media - Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, WhatsApp etc.
- Gaming console — Fortnite and Fortnite: Chapter 2 parent controls guide, Minecraft guide and Nintendo Switch guides.



Whilst parental controls and privacy settings are useful tools, they are not 100% effective. Skills such as **critical thinking** and **resilience** are crucial so children know what to do if they encounter risk.

The UK Safer Internet Centre has set out some top tips to help keep your household safe online over the holidays. Scan the QR code for tips about tablets, mobile devices, setting boundaries, having a 'whole home' approach and gaming.



Stay safe this Christmas!

