The Gates Primary School Westhoughton

Knowsley City Learning Centres

Online Safety Newsletter February 2022

Broadband controls

Most broadband providers include parental controls for free as part of their broadband package, which means that any device that connects to your Wi-Fi will be protected by any controls you set up. Find out how to set yours up here:

Sky:
https://www.sky.com/help/diagnostics/sky-broadband-buddy/sky-broadband-buddy

BT:
https://www.bt.com/help/security/how-to-keep-your-family-safe-online-with-bt-parental-controls-an

Talk Talk:
https://community.talktalk.co.uk/t5/Keeping-your-Family-Safe/bd-p/kfshub

Virgin:
https://www.virginmedia.com/broadband/parental-control

Remember, children may have devices that use mobile data, so they won't always be connected to your internet so ensure you set up parental controls on those devices too.

Further information:
https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parental-controls-offered-by-your-home-internet-provider

Discord

Discord is a social networking app that is used by gamers to **chat to each other**. There can be in app purchases through Discord's premium subscription service. The minimum age to access Discord is 13. The Apple App store rates it as 17+.

How does it work?

Discord is made up of servers, which are spaces for groups to chat, upload files and share images etc. Anybody can set up a server and they can either be public or private. Users can video call and send direct messages to other individuals or groups.

How can I make it safer?

Discord have created this article, which outlines four steps to creating a safer account, including how to block users.
https://discord.com/safety/360043857751-Four-steps-to-a-super-safe-account

How is it linked to other games?

Children who play online games such as Fortnite may use Discord to chat about the game (**rather than the game's own chat facility**).

What do I need to be aware of?

We always encourage you to chat to your child to see why they use different apps/websites and ensure that they know how to block users and what to do if they see any inappropriate content. It's important to be aware that Discord does include video/voice calling which cannot be filtered. Discord is used by an array of users and therefore adult content can be found on Discord as well as inappropriate language. Discord have produced this article, which answers common questions:

- https://discord.com/safety/360044149591-Answering-parents'-and-educators'-top-questions

Further information

- Discord app safety – What parents need to know: https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/parents-guide-to-discord-on-how-your-kids-can-use-it-safely/
- https://discord.com/safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into.
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Being online

If your child is online (for example playing games, using Snapchat, Instagram etc), then it's important that we talk to our child about **being kind online**, for example only posting positive comments, don't say 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/online-mobile-safety/feeling-good-on-social-media/

Yubo Social networking

Yubo is a social network, you must be over 13 years of age to join **although the App store rate it as 17+.** Those aged 13 to 18 years old must have parental permission and will join a separate Yubo community that is only for under-18s.

You make 'friends' by swiping right on someone's profile picture and if they do the same on yours then you can chat with them or stream live videos. **Due to the nature of this app, your child may come across content that is not appropriate to them.** Ensure your child knows how to use the app's reporting facilities.

If you follow the app store rating, then really children should not be accessing this app but Yubo have created the following guides to help make it a safer environment for your child. We really would recommend reading them before you allow your child to access this app. If you don't think this app is appropriate for your child, then talk to them and tell them why and what your concerns are.

Guide for Parents: http://parents-guide.yubo.live/
Guide for Teens: http://teens.yubo.live/

Further information

https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/yubo/

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.**

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/find-my/ or use this link if you have Family Sharing set up: https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT201087

Android:
https://support.google.com/android/answer/3265955#zippy=%2Cstep-check-that-find-my-device-is-on or use this link if you have Family Link set up: https://support.google.com/families/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-and-advice/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/