



# Online Safety Newsletter

Spring 2022

## World Password Day: 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022

We need to create passwords for everything these days and it is important that our children not only understand that they should not share passwords with others but also that they know how to create a 'strong' password to keep their information safe. As part of World Password Day, why not take the opportunity to talk to your child about this? You can learn more here: <https://www.connectsafely.org/passwords/>

## TikTok update

The NSPCC have created a news article discussing if TikTok is safe for children and provides an overview of how to keep your child safe on TikTok using their safety settings. Read the article here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/child-safe-settings-tiktok>

TikTok have also created a Guardian's Guide designed to provide an overview of TikTok and the tools and controls available: <https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide/>



## Social Media update

There are several different social media platforms that your child might be on or wanting to join such as Instagram and Snapchat. Social Media platforms are used to share pictures and communicate with others. It is important to review each individual platform to see what age your child should be to access them and to set appropriate privacy settings. It is also important to talk to your child about information they should keep private.

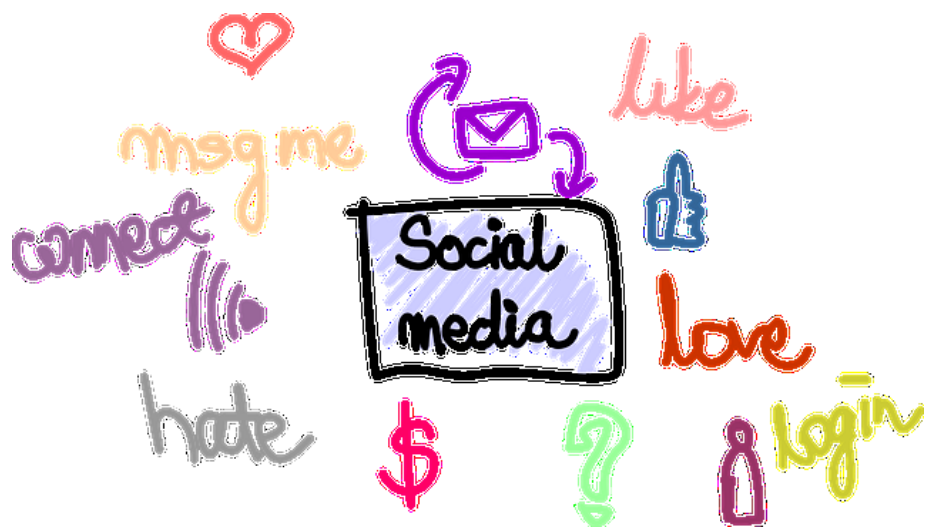
### Is your child ready for social media?

This article looks at the risks that you need to consider as well as advice on how to get started:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/is-my-child-ready-for-social-media/>

### Further information

Visit the Social Media Advice hub from Internet Matters to learn more: <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-advice-hub/>



## Social Media: harmful content

Report harmful content provide links to the advice sections from several social media platforms:

<https://reportharmfulcontent.com/advice/other/further-advice/advice-for-parents/>

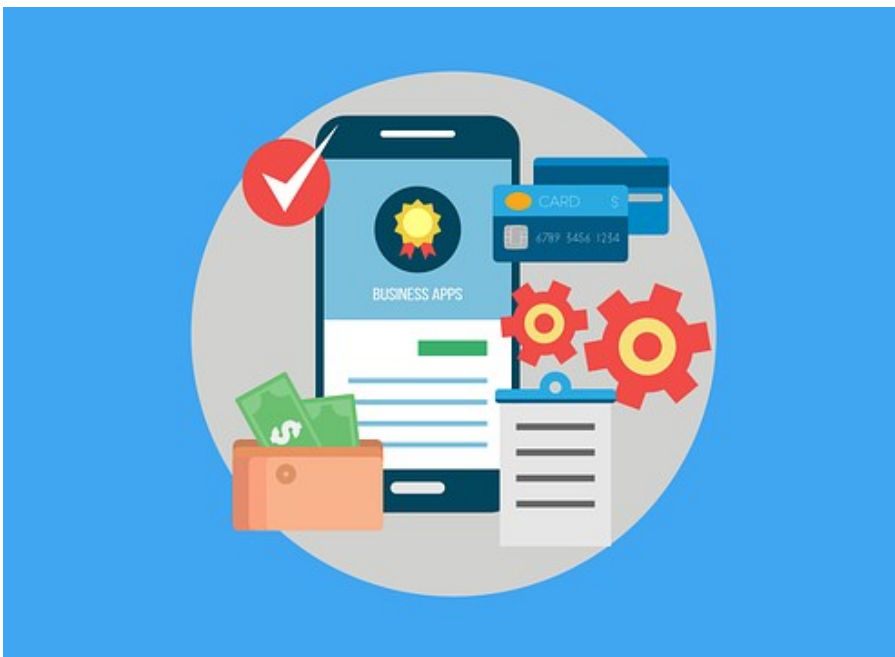
# Pop Ups / Adverts

When your child is playing on certain games or is on social media, they may see adverts / pop up adverts. The content in these adverts may not always be appropriate to them, particularly if clicked on.

It is important to talk to your child about adverts and to think about what they are clicking on before they do and if they are unsure to either ignore them or to check with a trusted adult.

## Further information

<https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/security/pop-ups-adverts/>



# Online Sexual Harassment

Talking to our children about online sexual harassment can be difficult which is why the Children's Commissioner have produced a guide to help you. The guide focuses on several topics that can often be difficult to talk about with our children such as body image and peer pressure.

Through the work of the Children's Commissioner, they found that we should start these conversations early, introducing topics in an age-appropriate manner before a child is given a phone or a social media account (often around the age of 9 or 10). The guide is a 'starting point' and includes further links to other resources, young peoples' views and top tips from 16–21 year-olds. The guide and further information can be found here:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/report/talking-to-your-child-about-online-sexual-harassment-a-guide-for-parents/>

## Games from Childline

Childline have created some online games that your children can play including arcade style games and relaxing games. You can find them here:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/games/>

## Search Engines

Parent Zone have published this article explaining what you need to know about safer searching and what you should consider. Read the article here:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/search-engines-what-you-need-to-know>

## Apple Watches

Does your child wear an Apple watch to school? Do they know how to turn it to the appropriate setting for school? Apple offers two options:

- **Do Not Disturb mode** - turns off all alerts.
- **Theatre Mode** - enables silent mode and stops the watch display from waking when you raise your hand.

## Family Setup

Family Setup can be used to set up an Apple Watch for a child that does not have their own iPhone. Once set up, there is a Schooltime option, which when activated displays a yellow circle on the watch to easily show that access to apps is restricted and Do Not Disturb is switched on. You can set the schedule for Schooltime on your iPhone. Find out more here:

<https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT211782>

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## Parental Controls

Does your child have a game console? If yes, have you set up age-appropriate parental controls? The controls vary across the different consoles, but all will allow you to restrict spending and communication for example.

## PlayStation

Set up your account as a family manager and create a separate child account so you can tailor their activities. Find out more here:

<https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/psn-safety-parents-guide/>

## Xbox

You can download an app to manage your child's gaming experience. Find out more here:

<https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/apps/family-settings-app>

## Nintendo Switch

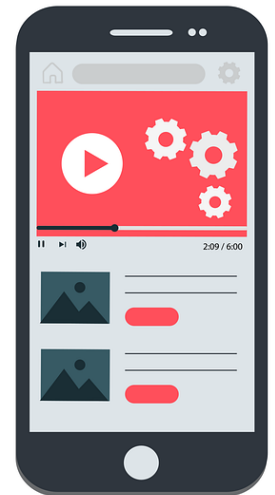
Nintendo also offer a free app to monitor what and how your children are playing. Find out more here:

<https://www.nintendo.co.uk/Nintendo-Switch-Family/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls-1183145.html>



## Does your child want to be a YouTuber?

*YouTube is intended for users over the age of 13, however the App store rates YouTube as 17+ due to the content that can be found on there.*



Have you heard of Ryan Kaji? He is the face behind the YouTube channel Ryan's World, which in 2021, earned a staggering £19m!! (Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-59987711>). Lots of YouTube channels centre around children so is it any wonder that many children aspire to have their own channel? How can we support and keep them safe though?



### Posting videos

You should be over 13 years of age to post videos on YouTube. Talk to your child about posting videos, do they understand what information they should keep private and what to do if they receive negative comments? YouTube have produced these tips:

<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/2802244>

### Select an appropriate setting for their videos

There are three different settings for videos published on YouTube:

- Public: anyone can view the video
- Private: video can only be viewed by users that you select
- Unlisted: only people who have the link to the video can view it.

### Other tips:

- Explore comment settings – comments can be held for review, specific words can be blocked and ensure your child knows how to remove and report comments if necessary:

<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/9483359>

- Visit your child's channel to see what videos they are posting
- Ensure your child knows how to block and report users if necessary.

### How can I make YouTube safer?

- **Turn on Restricted mode** as this restricts the availability of mature content. You will need to set up a Google account to do this.
- **Explore YouTube together** and see what they like to watch. Make sure your child understands that they can **talk to you** if they see anything that makes them feel uncomfortable online.
- Ensure your child knows how to **report inappropriate content**.

# What's in the news?

Children may come across news that upsets them, worries them, or makes them feel anxious. Newsround have produced this article which you can share and read with your child providing them with tips about what to do if they are feeling sad about the news:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/13865002>

## How can I support my child?

The following two articles provide advice on how to help your child cope with the media coverage of traumatic events, for example the current news around Russia invading Ukraine:

- <https://www.parents.parentzone.org.uk/morearticles/helping-your-child-cope-with-media-coverage-of-traumatic-events>
- <https://www.childline.org.uk/get-involved/articles/worrying-about-russia-ukraine/>

## Real or Fake?

A lot of children see or hear news updates from social media or via friends so it's important that we talk to them about fake news and provide them with the skills to help them distinguish between real or fake news. So how do we get them to critically think about what they are reading? Here are some tips:

- Check the source (who wrote it).
- When was it written? Is it based on an old story?
- Is it on a reputable news site, for example Newsround?
- You can also use 'fact checker' sites such as <https://fullfact.org/> to see if the news item has already been fact checked and linked to a credible source.

## Further information

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zmvdd6f>
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/tackling-fake-news-misinformation-advice-for-parents/>

# Talking about Online Safety



The NSPCC provide fantastic advice on how to start conversations about Online Safety with your child, where to get further support and how to be a good digital role model.

This site also includes Online safety family resources such as a family quiz, which is a great way to start conversations with your child whilst making it fun!

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety>

# Apps for learning and having fun!

**BBC**  
Bitesize

## BBC Bitesize - GCSE, Nationals & Highers Revision (app or web)

Aimed at 14-16 year olds studying for their exams.



## eQuoo: Emotional Fitness Game (12+) Free with in app purchases

Interactive game that builds resilience, helps you learn skills to deal with emotional stress and boosts people skills.



## Duolingo - Language Lessons (4+)

Learn a new language or your child can practice what they're learning in school.

This app is free although a paid subscription is available for further functionality and no ads.



## True or False Chemistry

Game to help you memorise the Periodic table – how many can you get? Free or 89p for Ad free version.

## Online gaming at home

This is a useful video to watch from Andy Robertson (Editor of Ask About Games): <https://www.askaboutgames.com/news/askaboutgames-on-the-road-parent-club-advice>

*As with all apps, check their suitability for your child before they use it. Think about if it is appropriately aged for your child and how the app uses your data for example?*