

Dubsmash

Dubsmash is a video editing mobile app where you can make 10 second videos (similar to TikTok). A user can post their 'dubsmashes' to their profile and follow others on it. Dubsmash is available as an app from the App Store or Google Play Store.

You should be 13+ to access Dubsmash, although according to their Terms of Service, users between the ages of 13 and 18 may only use Dubsmash **under the supervision of a parent or guardian**.

If your child is using Dubsmash then please make sure they know how to block other users, report inappropriate content and disable comments. You can find out more here: <https://dubsmash.com/help>

Want to know more?

Read other parent's reviews about Dubsmash here:
<https://www.common sense media.org/app-reviews/dubsmash>

Meet Ollee

Parent Zone have developed the app 'Meet Ollee' who is a virtual friend that helps your child think about how they're feeling.

Meet Ollee is aimed at 8-11 year olds and their parents.

<https://parentzone.org.uk/Ollee>

PlayStation

Does your child have a PlayStation? We've put together a few pointers to help keep your child safe whilst online. We would always recommend that you check the age ratings of any games your child is playing/wishes to play to ensure they are appropriate and also spend time with your child playing on their games console so you can monitor what they are doing and who, if anybody they are interacting with. This will also lead to more open conversations.

PlayStation Network rules

Playstation have created the PSN Rules for children to read specifying what players aged 7-17 need to know before going online with PlayStation:
<https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/legal/psn-rules/>

Block Players

Show your child how to block players should they need to:
<https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/block-players-psn/>

Report inappropriate behaviour

Show your child how to report any inappropriate content/conversations:
<https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/ps5-report-behaviour/>

Parental Controls

Make sure you set up appropriate parental controls (as well as any additional settings that are offered within any games your child is playing). Parental settings on a PS include features such as restrict communication with other players and setting spending limits.

PS4: <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/ps5-parental-controls-spending-limits/>

PS5: <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/ps4-parental-controls-and-spending-limits/>

Further information

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



With the launch of the new Xbox Series X and Xbox Series S late last year (and having just been Christmas!) we thought it was important to revisit some of the features available to you and address some concerns that you may have. Firstly, Xbox have a great area on their website to support you in helping your child stay safe and play responsibly: <https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/community/for-everyone/responsible-gaming>

Xbox Family Settings App

This app is available on iOS and Android phones and has been created to give you the ability to manage your child's activities on their Xbox One. The app allows you to manage their friend list and incoming friend requests. This app will develop with further features being planned. Find out more here: <https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/apps/family-settings-app>

Who is your child talking to?

Lots of games are now played online and incorporate a chat or text element which potentially means your child could be chatting with strangers and may encounter inappropriate language/content and bullying. It is important to talk to your child about who they are talking to online and that they understand that not everybody is who they say they are so they should never share personal information. Keep devices in family areas so you can keep an eye on who your child is talking to and join in with them. Make sure they know that if anything is worrying them then they can talk to you or another adult that they trust. This useful article from Net Aware discusses why children like to chat online and what you should be aware of:

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/talking-to-people-online-when-should-i-be-worried/>

Read more about the world of gaming here and learn about other matters you should be aware of:

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics/gaming>

Restrict spending

Xbox offer purchase management tools to help you set spending limits when using the Microsoft Store on Xbox One and Windows 10 devices. Further information available here:

<https://support.xbox.com/en-GB/help/Family-Online-Safety/child-accounts/approve-child-purchases>



Parental Controls

Make sure you set up appropriate parental controls on the device your child is using (as well as any additional settings that are offered within any games your child is playing). Parental settings include features such as restricting what games can be played and how long your child can play on their console for.

- **Xbox 360 consoles:** <https://support.xbox.com/help/xbox-360/security/xbox-live-parental-control>
- **Xbox One consoles:** <https://support.microsoft.com/en-gb/help/4482922/xbox-one-online-safety-and-privacy-settings-for-parents-and-kids>

Further information

- <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/gaming-keeping-kids-safe>
- <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/online-gaming/>



Google Classroom

Online Learning

We now find ourselves back helping our children learn at home. We hope this article will provide you with some useful pointers.



Learning online

- Follow school rules on communicating and only use those approved channels to communicate with the teacher / school
- When participating in any live teaching, make sure Safeguarding rules are followed
- Ensure appropriate clothing - no pyjamas etc.
- Set scheduled breaks from screen time – follow the timetable and make sure Break and Lunch are taken away from a screen
- Only use web resources that the school have recommended or known reliable sources



Keeping in touch

This article provides you with some general advice to help you keep your child safe as well as further links tailored specifically to learning more about Meets in Google Classroom and MS Teams:

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/keeping-kids-safe-on-conferencing-apps/>

Test your Internet

Whilst no system is 100% perfect, filtering can reduce the possibility of your child seeing content that they shouldn't. You can test your broadband or mobile connection here:

<http://testfiltering.com/personal/>

Screen time

As children are at home learning, there may be an increase in how long your child is spending online. This site offers age appropriate guidance relating to screen time and how you can balance it and set boundaries.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/screen-time/>

Do you need further support?

ParentZone have produced a list of support services, helplines and reporting channels that you may find useful: <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/where-report-and-get-support-during-lockdown>

Would you like to deliver online safety at home?

Here are some video guides to try:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/presentations-for-parents/>

WhatsApp

You must be at least 16 years old to register for and use WhatsApp.

WhatsApp is a free messaging app that allows you to send messages and videos. One of the main features is that it has a Group chat function that are set up by one person (who is the admin). Everybody in the group, even if they're not one of your child's phone contacts, will be able to see all messages. *If your child is added to a group with someone that they have previously blocked, that person can still see their messages and send them messages through the group.* In settings, you can change who can add your child to groups, for example, you can change the settings to 'my contacts', which means that only those in your child's contacts can add them to a group (those not in their contacts will have to send them an invitation to add them first).

WhatsApp has been used in instances of online bullying, for example sending nasty messages or sharing images of other children without their permission to embarrass them. We need to ensure we talk to our children about being kind online. **Encourage them to think about their digital footprint by thinking about the things that they say, do and share online.** We also need to lead by example and model the type of behaviour expected online. This is a really useful article to help support your child online and how to be a positive role model: <https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/parents-guide-to-support-a-z/parents-guide-to-support-social-media-and-the-internet/>

It's also important to note that WhatsApp has a live location feature which allows you to share your real-time location for a specific amount of time. You can change your options in settings to never share your location. **If your child is using WhatsApp, then show them how to block and report contacts and remind your child that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if they have any concerns.**

Further information

- <https://www.whatsapp.com/safety/>

Grand Theft Auto

Is your child using Discord?

As with any site that includes a chat facility, there are risks involved. Learn more about Discord here and help your child to use it safely: <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/discord-everything-you-need-know-about-chat-service>

Grand Theft Auto

Grand Theft Auto, depending on which version played, is rated 18+ by PEGI, often because of language, glamourisation of crime and the depiction of drugs. **GTA is not suitable for those under this age.** Find out more about GTA here: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/grand-theft-auto-san-andreas/>

Safer internet Day

Safer Internet Day 2021 will be celebrated around the world on Tuesday 9th February. The global theme is **'together for a better internet'**. The focus is how young people can tell fact from fiction. You can get involved by visiting their website which has lots of advice, activities and films.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2021/i-am-parent-or-carer>

Roblox

PEGI have rated Roblox PEGI 7 which means it is not suitable for persons under 7 years of age. **However, remember a PEGI rating does not take into consideration the presence of a chat facility.**

What should I be aware of?

Chat Facility: Players can chat to each other, you can add parental controls to turn this feature off completely or add restrictions. Further information can be found here:

<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>

Blocking users and reporting – ensure your child knows how to do this.

Virtual Currency - Players can buy Robux (their virtual currency) to buy in-game upgrades or accessories. If you do not want your child to purchase them ensure your card details are not saved.

SWGfL have produced this Privacy and Safety Checklist: <https://swgfl.org.uk/assets/documents/roblox-checklist.pdf>

Common sense Media have also produced this Ultimate Guide to Roblox which details further information that you need to know: <https://www.common sense media.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-roblox-0>



Online safety at home packs

Simple 15 minute activities families can do to support their child's online safety at home. [Packs](#) are available for ages 4 to 14+. Parents can also watch ThinkUKnow video guides on different online safety topics.