



Online Safety Newsletter

Staying safe on a PlayStation



Internet matters have teamed up with Sony Interactive Entertainment to create a quiz you can play with your child to see who know more about the safety options available on a PlayStation. To play the quiz, click here: [PlayStation online safety quiz for parents | Internet Matters](#)

Playing Online Games

Does your child play games online? Consider the point below to help create a safer online environment for your child.



Have you set up parental controls?

As well as setting up appropriate parental controls through the game's setting, ensure you have set them up on the console/device your child is playing on. Many consoles allow you to restrict the games children can access based on age.

Is the game age appropriate?

Before purchasing games, check the PEGI rating or the rating on the App Store / Google Play. UK Safer Internet Centre have published a blog, which shares tips on what to do if your child asks about playing a new game, follow this link to access it: [Help! My child wants to play games that are too old for them. - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Does the game have in-app purchases?

You should be aware of in app purchases as lots of games include the option to purchase additional items or subscriptions. Ensure you do not have payment cards saved or set up restrictions/pin code to approve.

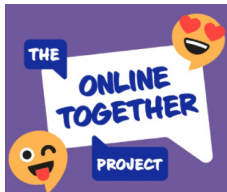
Stranger danger applies online too:

Some games allow communication, for example FIFA and Fortnite. This may be via direct messages, the in-game text chat or talking through headphones. Some give you the option to switch communication off or restrict bad language so check the settings are appropriate for your child and are set up for each game they play. It can be difficult to monitor online chat so ensure your child knows how to block and report other players who make them feel uncomfortable and that they know to talk to you or a trusted adult if they have any concerns. Children can also behave in a way that they would not if they were face to face with each other. Talk to your child about how they speak to others online and being kind and respectful.

Further information:

The NSPCC provide further guidance and support regarding this topic: [How to Ensure Your Children Stay Safe While Playing Online Games | NSPCC](#)

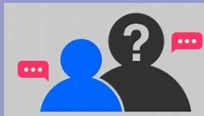
Reducing Online Hate



One of the best ways we can tackle online hate is to ensure our children learn about what it is and how they can help stop it. Internet Matters have created a quiz that you can complete with your child. As you progress through the questions, you will be given advice, information and questions to discuss. The idea is that these elements should help start conversations with your child. The quiz is available through the following link: [Tackling online hate interactive quiz | The Online Together Project \(internetmatters.org\)](#)

What is Online Grooming?

To read more about this relevant but difficult subject follow the links below:



- [Grooming and online grooming | Childline](#)
- [How to Recognize and Prevent Your Child From Online Grooming - Safe Kids Online \(heritage.org\)](#)

Rocket League

Rocket League has been rated 3+ by PEGI. Players use cars in football matches and the game is available for free across many platforms.



Things to be aware of:

If your child is under 13, then their account will have chat and purchases disabled, however this can be overridden in settings. For child over 13, these settings will need to be restricted as you see appropriate. The game offers an online playing option which allows them to play with others and make purchase to enhance the car. You can set up parental controls by setting up an account with Epic Games and applying settings to your child's device also.



Minecraft Legends

Minecraft Legends was released last year and is available across a variety of platforms. PEGI have rated the game 7+ with a content descriptor of 'violence'. However, PEGI do not take into consideration the communication feature within the game. Minecraft Legends does contain a chat facility, this adds further risks of being exposed to inappropriate language or content. Again, this feature can be switched off.



Things to be aware of:

- **Multiplayer** - Players can interact with other players, which can include strangers, this option can be switched off in settings or you can select to play offline.
- **In-app purchases** - This game contain in-app purchases and the purchase of additional items to support game play, although they are not needed. To can set parental settings to restrict or prevent purchases.
- **Block and report players** - If your child is playing with other players, make sure they know how to block and report players within the game.



For more information visit: [What Parents Need to Know About Minecraft Legends \(esrb.org\)](#)



EA Sports FC 24

EA Sports FC 24 have been given a PEGI rating of 3, this means it is suitable for those over the age of 3. However, you need to be aware that the game does allow users to interact with each other and there are some in-app purchases available.



EA Sports FC 24 was released September 2023 and is the new branding for what was previously know as EA FIF series. It is available to play across many platforms.

Due to the communication option, please consider that this can expose your child to inappropriate language and a risk of grooming should also be considered when interacting with others online is allowed. Reminding your child about reporting tools is essential. Please note that the chat facility can be switched off.



Minecraft

Minecraft can be used for learning in schools as it aids planning skills and allows users to recreate famous buildings in 3D. Players use blocks like Lego to create their own worlds. You can choose to play in either creative mode or survival mode - creative mode removes the survival elements of the game so this might be more appropriate for your child.

What PEGI rating does Minecraft have? Minecraft is rated either 7+ or 12+ by PEGI but this depends on which version you are playing. App Store rates it as 9+ and Google Play store has it rated as 10+.



Things to be aware of:

- **In-app purchases** - users are able to purchase additional items although these aren't needed to play the game.
- **Block and report players** - if your child is playing with others, make sure they know how to block and report players in the game.
- **Multiplayer** - Players can chat to each other, even with strangers. You can turn communication off or choose to play offline

Creating your child's profile: To further protect your child's privacy, use a nickname and don't include their age or birth year. Remember to discuss the importance of not sharing personal information online.

Further information can be found here: [Is Minecraft safe for children? | NSPCC](#)



Roblox

Roblox is a platform consisting of a collection of games. Players have the option to either create games to play games that other users have created. It is free to download the game, however there are subscription options and in-app purchases available. The game can be played on multiple devices. A large amount of the content is user generated, this means not all games will be suitable for your children to view or play. It is therefore important to set up appropriate parental controls before allowing your child to access the game.

What PEGI rating does Roblox have? PEGI have rated Roblox with a Parental Guidance label, this is due to the difficulty in rating the large amount of user generated content. However, Google Play have rated it for 'Teens' and the App store have it listed as 12+.



Things to be aware of:

- **Virtual Currency** - Players can buy Robux, which is a virtual currency, to buy upgrades and accessories within the game. For children aged 13+, within settings, parents are able to set a Monthly Spend Restriction.
- **Game Content** - as previously mentioned users can create their own games and therefore some user's games may contain content or theme that is not appropriate for your child.
- **Chat Facility** - Players can chat to each other. You can turn communication off completely or you can add restrictions, such as only communicate with friends.
- **Jump scares** - Jump scares often feature in horror games on Roblox with the intention of scaring and frightening players, this could be through loud noises, frightening images or sudden movement. Some players may find this upsetting.

Can I report abuse or block users? Yes, Roblox have a Report Abuse system so it is important that you show your child how to use it to report inappropriate content as well as how to block other users. The ways you do this may vary based on the device you are using.

How do I set up parental controls? Within settings, you will find parental controls are available. We urge you to look at the options available and set the appropriate controls. You can restrict chat options, set spending limits and enable spending notifications. You can also view what your child is doing on Roblox including recently played experiences, private message history and their friends. There is an option to set up Allowed Experiences, this will allow you to select age-appropriate experiences so your child will only join experiences appropriate for their age. Age categories include: all, 9+, 13+ and 17+. To access 17+ a user must complete a verification process by submitting valid ID.

Where can I find further information?

- [For Parents - Roblox](#)
- [The Roblox Checklist | SWGfL](#)
- [Account Settings – Roblox Support](#)



Fortnite

Fortnite is rated PEGI 12 due to frequent mild violence which means it is not suitable for children under the age of 12.



What is Fortnite? There are different versions of Fortnite including Battle Royale, which is free to play, where up to 100 players compete against each other. It should be noted that money can be spent within the game.

Things to be aware of:

- **In-app purchases** - Users can purchase V-Bucks directly through the game. This can be used to purchase items in the Fortnite store so make sure you don't store your payment details within the game/device and remember to restrict purchases.
- **Chat facility** - Fortnite contains voice and text chat. Due to the nature of the game, your child may be chatting to strangers and may hear inappropriate language. Ensure they knows how to report players for inappropriate behaviour.

Can I set up parental controls? Yes, Fortnite includes several parental controls to help you make it a safer environment for your child options include disabling voice chat, filtering language and setting privacy settings. For more on parental controls, click the link:

[Parental Controls within Fortnite | Guide | Virgin Media](#)

