Online Safety Parent Newsletter - Spring 1, 2026



Welcome to our second online safety newsletter for parents.

Each half term we will share the latest updates to help us all work together to keep our children safe online.

Popular Apps and Games - A Handout for Parents

Drawn from the Ofcom Online Nation Report 2025 this free handy guide for parents and carers looks at the more popular apps and games used by children and young people. Specifically it covers:

- Key insights.
- A comparison of safety and wellbeing features within apps and games.
- Help and support links for those games and apps (e.g. Family Pairing, YouTube Supervised Experience etc.).
- A few of the more popular helplines.
- App/games reviews from Common Sense Media.

Download: Popular Apps and Games - A Guide for Parents.

Playstation Family App



The Playstation Family App came out in Sept 2025 and it is a great way to help parents set up and manage their children's gaming experience. Features include:

- Manage playtime.
- Activity report.

- Visibility into what children are playing.
- Approving playtime requests.

On this web page you will find detailed instructions to guide you through setting up a child account, get notified what game your child is playing in real time, approve or decline a request for extra playtime, apply content filters, privacy settings and more.
Webpage: Playstation Family App

What I wish my parents or carers knew: A guide for parents on managing children's digital lives.

Supporting children's safety is a shared responsibility between families, schools and wider society. For parents and carers, this responsibility has become increasingly complex as children's lives are now deeply intertwined with the digital world. Many parents face difficult decisions about how to balance protecting children from online harm with enabling access to spaces that are now central to learning, socialising and play. The article linked above is incredibly useful.

Roblox Security Changes

The introduction of the Online Safety Bill earlier this year has brought welcome controls over what we and our children can access online. As internet speeds have increased and the digital world has expanded, the ability for anyone of any age to reach almost any content has grown at a pace far beyond our capacity to safeguard against it. Adults now face increasingly sophisticated attacks from hackers and scammers, while children remain acutely vulnerable to online predators.

Although some internet services initially resisted tighter regulation, the government's commitment to reducing online harms has ultimately prevailed. For children, one of the most persistent avenues for predatory behaviour has been online video games. These are spaces where young users gather, communicate, and interact, often with limited verification or oversight.

Roblox, a platform widely associated with younger players, is now beginning to address this by introducing facial analysis age checks and optional ID verification for users over 13. These real-world verification measures are designed to confirm a user's age more accurately and to restrict interactions that could place children at risk. In practice, they signal an important shift in how major platforms are starting to manage online safety and respond to the expectations set out in the Bill.

You can read more about these checks on the SWGfL website: https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/roblox-announces-facial-age-checks-for-chat-features/

Updated Android Controls

From the beginning of December 2025, Google has released new and updated parental controls for Android devices. These include:

- Set the amount of screen time that can be spent on a device each day to help establish healthy habits.
- Set downtime schedules to automatically lock the device at night to ensure restful sleep without distraction.
- Control app usage by limiting time spent on specific apps, or blocking apps entirely.
- Add more time by granting extra minutes when a time limit is reached, or to extend a scheduled break.

You can find further details about these updates on the Google blog HERE and Internet Matters have a handy Android guide for parents which you can find HERE.

