

# SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT



AUTUMN 2 2023

## Online Safety

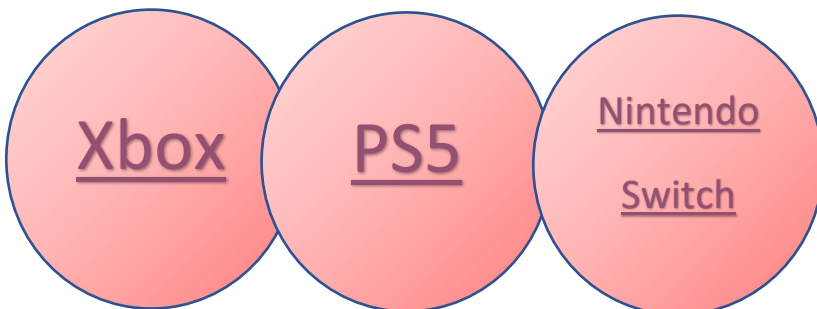
This issue is all about how to keep children safe whilst online. On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 9am, PC Louise Rothery will be giving a talk for parents about online safety. Please do come and join us. There will be refreshments and a chance to speak to Louise about any concerns you may have.

With Christmas nearly here and perhaps with presents including new technology or related games being received, we thought we'd help you with a little reminder of how to set up appropriate parental controls.

## Games/consoles

First, check the PEGI rating of any new games to ensure that your child is old enough to be playing them. PEGI provides age classifications for games and **considers the age suitability of a game, not the level of difficulty**. It is important to note that PEGI do not take into consideration the chat facilities within games. If a game does allow your child to communicate with others then you can adjust the settings so they are appropriate to your child - or disable it completely.

Secondly, for any consoles (new and old), it is important to set up appropriate controls such as restricting spending limits and again managing who they can communicate with. Follow the links below to find out how to set up Parental Controls for each device:



## Tablets/Smart phones

As well as setting up parental controls on the device itself, remember to check any apps your child would like on their device. Is it suitable for their age? Review all settings and privacy options for each app. For the devices themselves use the available settings to prevent purchases, restrict content viewed and adjust privacy settings. Follow the links below to find out more:

**iPhones/iPads:** <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT201304>

**Google Play:** <https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738>

## Our Safeguarding Team

You can always speak to one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads if you have a worry about any child.



Mrs E. Cook

Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs C Loring

Deputy Designated



Miss J Wathen

Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs C Fell

Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead

## Screentime Advice

We're often asked how long children should spend on their devices each day. Childnet have created a blog discussing why it is difficult to specify a limit and what you should consider. You can read it here:

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/new-guidance-for-parents-and-carers-looking-at-screen-time/>

## Online Safety with Google

As part of Google Families, Google have a hub of resources that you can use including conversation starters with links to additional tools and advice and information about parental controls. Google also provide you with resources to help your children build healthier habits and stay safe online. There is also a selection of ideas on how to use technology as a family in a fun and engaging manner such as exploring the world and learning how to code. You can access the hub here:

[https://families.google/intl/en\\_uk/](https://families.google/intl/en_uk/)

## CEOP Website

This website from CEOP Education is designed for children to visit with their parents/carers.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

## Personalised Digital Toolkit

Answer some simple questions and get age specific advice and recommendations:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/digital-family-toolkit/>



## You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok.

TikTok is a social media platform for sharing and watching short video clips. Some of the videos on TikTok may not be appropriate for your child to view and there is also the risk of strangers contacting your child. If your child is using TikTok then make sure the appropriate security/privacy settings are on.

### Account set up

By default, accounts for people under 16 are set to private at the start and we would recommend keeping it as this. This means your child must approve follower requests. You can read more about the other settings available (such as switching off comments and switching on restricted mode) here:

<https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy>

As always, it is important that when setting up an account on TikTok, your child enters their real date of birth as accounts are tailored by age. For example, Direct Messaging is disabled for accounts aged 13-15 and they do not receive push notifications from 9pm. In addition, advertisements are tailored to the user's age.

### Family Pairing

This allows you to link your own account to your child's account. You can then set controls such as restricted mode (limit the appearance of content that may not be appropriate) and screen time management. You can find out more here:

<https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide/>

### Inappropriate content, themes and challenges on TikTok

Whilst against TikTok's guidelines, explicit and inappropriate content can be found on this platform, for example nudity/sexual content and hate speech.

We often see viral challenges on social media, some of which can be dangerous. If your child is using TikTok, chat to them regularly about what they are viewing.

### Blocking and Reporting

Ensure your child knows how to use the safety features available to them, including how to report comments, direct messages and another user. You can find out more here: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/safety-hc/report-a-problem>

### Further information

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok>