

Online Safety Newsletter

December 2023



With Christmas fast approaching, and perhaps presents including new technology, it is important that parents are aware of how to set up games and/or consoles with parental controls. First, check the PEGI rating of any games to ensure that your child is old enough to play them. PEGI provided age rating of games to suit the suitability to a child, not it's difficult. However, it is important to note that PEGI does not take into account the chat facilities within a game. Therefore the game may be 'age appropriate' but allows them to communicate with other users. Parents and careers are therefore encouraged to adjust the setting or disable the chat feature completely so it is more appropriate for the child.

Secondly, it is important that consoles have the appropriate controls such as restricting spending limits and managing how or who they can communicate with.

For more information on how to set up Parental Controls for each device visit the following links:

XBox - <https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/family-hub>

PS5 - <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/ps5-parental-controls-spending-limits/>

Nintendo Switch -

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

For useful information, resources and videos please visit;

<https://www.kidsonlineworld.com/parents--carers.html>

PlayStation Quiz

Internet Matters and Sony Interactive Entertainment have created a quiz you can play with your child to see who knows more about the safety options available when you play on a PlayStation.



Play the quiz here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/playstation-network/>

WHAT IS AN INFLUENCER?



An influencer is somebody with a high amount of followers on a social media platform, such as YouTube, TikTok and Instagram. Influencers share their ideas and opinions and are sometimes paid to advertise/promote products on their accounts. Sometimes their 'views' could be prejudiced (e.g. racist or misogynistic) and can be interpreted by the follower as fact.

It is important to talk to your child about the spread of misinformation online and how to critically check and analyse what they see and hear online. Some social media platforms are influenced by algorithms which predict what type of context we are most likely to interact with. Whilst sometimes there are some positives to algorithms, sometimes once we start looking at certain content our social media feed can become more aligned with that option therefore creating an unbalanced picture and/or view.

For more information please visit the link: <https://www.childnet.com/blog/algorithms/>. The NSPCC have created an article about what you should know about online influencers. You can read it here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/onlinesafety-blog/2023-05-16-the-influence-of-influencers/>