

Online Safety Newsletter

December 2025



New Technology

As children may receive new technology or gaming devices this Christmas, it's a good time to revisit the importance of setting up appropriate parental controls.

Check age ratings: Always look at the PEGI rating for new games. Remember that PEGI only rates gameplay content, so it's also important to check whether the game includes communication features.

Manage communication settings: If the game allows players to chat or interact with others, adjust or disable these features based on what is suitable for your child.

Set device controls: Use the built-in parental controls on the console to manage things like spending limits or access to certain features.

Make sure to activate parental controls on the device to prevent unwanted purchases, restrict inappropriate content, and manage privacy settings. Always review any apps your child requests to ensure they are age-appropriate.

Useful links for setting up parental controls:

- Xbox: <https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/family-hub>
- PS5: <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/ps5-parentalcontrols-spending-limits/>
- Nintendo Switch:
<https://www.nintendo.com/en-gb/Hardware/NintendoSwitch-Parental-Controls/Nintendo-Switch-2-Nintendo-Switch-ParentalControls-2873385.html>
- iPhone/iPad: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/105121>
- Android devices: <https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738>

For more information, please visit the following link: <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

Signal Private Messenger

Signal is rated 13+ on the App Store. It is a messaging app that allows users to send texts, voice messages, photos, and take part in group chats and calls. Currently, it does not offer any parental control features. As with all messaging platforms, potential risks include bullying and exposure to inappropriate content. For more information please visit the following link:
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-apps/>

The Safety First Smartphone

The Other Phone is a new smartphone designed with built-in "SafetyMode" software. This feature automatically filters out inappropriate content in real time. To learn more please visit the following link:
<https://otherphone.co.uk/>

Smart Phone Free Childhood also provides a list of alternative options you may wish to explore:
<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/alternatives>

Roblox

Roblox provides several parental controls that allow parents and caregivers to manage their child's activity on the platform. To adjust these settings, you'll need a Roblox account that is linked to your child's account. For more information please visit the following link:
<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/30428310121620-Parental-Controls-Overview>