

Online Safety at Home

March 2022

Firstly, a big thank you to those parents who took part in the Online Safety survey that was sent out in February. In response to this survey there were a few things that parents said would be beneficial to help keep their children safe when going online at home.

PEGI Ratings

PEGI ratings are used to ensure that entertainment content, such as games, but also films, tv shows or mobile apps, are clearly labelled with a minimum age recommendation based on the content they have. These age ratings provide guidance to help decide whether or not to buy a particular product for a child. **The PEGI rating considers the age suitability of a game, not the level of difficulty.** The PEGI Content Descriptors let parents know what content their child may be exposed to.



Parental Controls



All gaming consoles, handheld devices and operating systems for PC and Mac are equipped with parental control systems. Parental controls allow you to block and filter upsetting or inappropriate content. They work across your Wi-Fi, phone network, individual apps and devices.

Parental controls can help you to:

- plan what time of day your child can go online and how long for
- create content filters to block apps that may have inappropriate content
- manage the content different family members can see.

The 4 big internet providers in the UK - BT, Sky, TalkTalk and Virgin Media - provide their customers with free parental controls which can be activated at any time.

Please visit the following websites for more information on setting parental controls for each device.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

<https://pegi.info/parental-controls>

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parental-controls-offered-by-your-home-internet-provider>

Remember to talk to your child regularly about what they're doing online and how to stay safe. Let them know they can come to you or another trusted adult if they're feeling worried or upset by anything they have seen.