



**E-Safety Guide Update
Summer Term 2026**



WhatsApp update:

Parent-Managed Accounts - WhatsApp have announced that they are rolling out the option of Parent-Managed accounts for those under the age of 13. The settings will include allowing you to choose who can contact your child and ensuring only you can add them to groups.

Find out more here: <https://faq.whatsapp.com/894871699629864>

Whilst, these features could be useful, it is important to emphasise that just because the option now exists, WhatsApp may still not be an appropriate platform for your child to be on. We often receive reports of issues, particularly with group chats on WhatsApp.

Wayne Denner (online safety trainer) explains more here:

<https://www.waynedenner.com/whats-app-parent-managed-accounts-whatparents-need-to-know/>

ICT Device Controls to support your young people



Whether your young people access the internet of a Computer, Laptop, Apple Mac, iPad, iPhone, or and Android phone or tablet – there are controls you can use to make sure they are safe online, and can only access things they should be.

Computers and Laptops using Microsoft Windows



Download the free **Microsoft Family Safety** app to access features for Windows. You will have the ability to:

- Set screen time limits.
- Set age appropriate content filters and block inappropriate content.
- View activity summaries.

Find out more here:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/microsoft-365/family-safety>

iMac Computers and MacBook Laptops using MacOS



To use **parental controls**, add a user account for your child and then turn on parental controls. Here are just a few of the features available to you :

- Disable the built-in camera.
- Restrict contact with other people through Mail.
- Specify which apps are allowed.
- Ability to limit access to websites.
- Disable or limit access to the iTunes Store.
- Set time limits for weekdays, weekends and bedtime.
- Prevent apps and services from accessing your child's data.

Find out more here: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/guide/mac-help/mtusr004/10.14/mac/10.14>

iPads and iPhones using iOS



Using *Content & Privacy Restrictions* in **Screen Time**, you can block or limit specific apps and features on your child's device.

Find out more here: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/105121>.

Apple have also created this support page for families:
<https://www.apple.com/uk/families/>

Phones and Tablets using Android



When you turn on **parental controls**, you can restrict what content can be accessed, downloaded or purchased from Google Play based on maturity level.

Find out more here: <https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738?hl=en-GB>

You can also set up **Family Link**, This give you lot's of controls to help keep them safe, including:

- lets you set digital ground rules
- see where they are
- receive notifications when they arrive or leave a certain location
- set screen time limits.

You will need to download Family Link onto your own device first and then link your child's account to it. Find out more here: <https://families.google/familylink/>

Games Consoles



Young people regularly access online materials via Video Games Consoles. They might use them to browse the internet, play online games, chat, stream themselves and much more. There are controls available to help minimize the dangers of using games consoles.

Microsoft Xbox



Xbox Series X|S and Xbox One

You can download the ***Xbox Family Settings*** app to help you manage the following:

- Set screen time.
- Filter content based on your child's age.
- Approve your child's purchases.
- Review requests to add a new friend.

Find out more here: <https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/family-hub>

Sony PlayStation



PlayStation 4 (PS4) / PlayStation 5 (PS5)

You will need your own account for the **PlayStation Network** and an account for each child. Both PS4 and PS5 offer a variety of Parental Control/Family Management options such as:

- Set age rating levels for games and apps.
- Manage how long children can play each day.
- Restrict web browsing.
- Restrict communication.
- Set the monthly maximum amount of money a child can spend in the store.

Find out more here: <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/parental-controls/>

Nintendo Switch 1 & 2



Nintendo Switch / Switch 2

The ***Nintendo Switch Parental Controls*** smart device app is a free app that can be linked with your Nintendo Switch to monitor what your child is playing. The app for your Android or Apple phones creates a report so you can see which video games your child plays and how long for. It also allows you to set which games your child can play based on the PEGI age rating and restrict your child from sending/receiving messages from other users.

On the Nintendo Switch 2, there is a GameChat feature, allowing communication via voice and video chat. Settings can be adjusted separately for this through the app as well.

Find out more here: <https://www.nintendo.com/en-gb/Hardware/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls/Nintendo-Switch-ParentalControls-1183145.html>

Metaquest/Oculus VR Headsets



Meta Quest VR / Oculus Rift

Meta Quest state that “Meta Quest headsets are not toys. Using Meta Quest requires an account and is subject to requirements that include a minimum age of 10.”

<https://www.meta.com/gb/quest/safety-center/>

Parental tools include (Via their *Parent Education Hub*):

- blocking specific apps.
- set a daily time limit.
- view who your child is interacting with.
- receive purchase notifications.

Find out more here: <https://www.meta.com/gb/quest/safety-center/parental-supervision/>

Smart Devices



Many homes have smart devices in them that are used to control automation inside the home, and to ask for information, play music and much more. There are things you are able to do to try and help govern what young people are able to do and access with these devices.

Amazon Alexa – Echo/Dot



Amazon Echo/Dot (Alexa) You can set controls for Amazon Kids on Alexa, such as a daily time limit, using the Parent Dashboard. Find out more here: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/help/customer/display.html?nodeId=GURF576XXFDFZL95>

Google Home – Gemini/Nest



Google Home

You can set up content filters for your device.

Find out more here: <https://support.google.com/googlenest/answer/7084229?hl=en-GB>

Your child under 13 can use Google Assistant on shared devices if you add their Google Account and voice to the device. By setting up a supervised account, children won't be able to do the following:

- Make purchases.
- Use non-Google apps (unless they have the 'Apps for families on Google Assistant' badge).

Find out more here: <https://support.google.com/families/answer/9071584>

Additional Information

There are guides for parents, carers and young people for almost every type of online activity, including social media, websites, shopping and games console use.

Have a look around, use Google to look for guides and information, and never be afraid to ask. It could be a friend or family member

If you are still unsure, you can even drop us a message at school - Ian or Charlie will be able to send you some information to help you.

