

Online Safety Newsletter

Merrylands



X Box update

With the launch of the new Xbox Series X and Xbox Series S late last year we thought it was important to revisit some of the features available to you and address some concerns that you may have.

Firstly, Xbox have a great area on their website to support you in helping your child stay safe and play responsibly:

<https://www.xbox.com/en-US/community/for-everyone/responsible-gaming?xr=shellnav>

Xbox Family Settings App

This app is available on iOS and Android phones and has been created to give you the ability to manage your child's activities on their Xbox One. The app allows you to manage their friend list and incoming friend requests. This app will develop with further features being planned. Find out more at: <https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/apps/family-settings-app>

Meet Ollee

Parent Zone have developed the app 'Meet Ollee' who is a virtual friend that helps your child think about how they are feeling. Meet Ollee is aimed at 8-11 year olds and their parents.

<https://parentzone.org.uk/Ollee>

Who is your child talking to?

Lots of games are now played online and incorporate a chat or text element which potentially means your child could be chatting with strangers and may encounter inappropriate language/content and bullying.

It is important to talk to your child about who they are talking to online and that they understand that not everybody is who they say they are so they should never share personal information.

Keep devices in family areas so you can keep an eye on who your child is talking to and join in with them. Make sure they know that if anything is worrying them they can talk to you or another adult that they trust.

This useful article from Net Aware discusses why children like to chat online and what you should be aware of:

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/talking-to-people-online-when-should-i-be-worried/>

Read more about the world of gaming here and learn about other matters you should be aware of:

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics/gaming>

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PlayStation



PlayStation Network rules

PlayStation have created the PSN Rules for children to read specifying what players aged 7-17 need to know before going online with PlayStation:

[PSN rules for 7-17 year-olds](#) | [Rules for our online services](#) | [PlayStation](#)

Block Players

Show your child how to block players should they need to:

[How to block or unblock players on PlayStation™Network](#)

Report inappropriate behaviour

Show your child how to report any inappropriate content/conversations:

[How to report inappropriate behaviour on PlayStation®5](#)

Parental Controls

Make sure you set up appropriate parental controls (as well as any additional settings that are offered within any game your child is playing). Parental settings on a PS include features such as restrict communication with other players and setting spending limits.

[How to set parental controls and spending limits on PlayStation®5](#)

Monitoring Apps

Would you like to monitor what your child is doing online? The best app to use will be dependent on what device your child is using but this helpful article from Internet Matters reviews the top monitoring apps for you:

[Guide to monitoring apps for parents](#) | [Internet Matters](#)

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