



# E-Safety News

March 2023



## Why should I monitor my child's online activity?

1. Children are very unlikely to share if they are being or have someone being unkind to them online.
2. Children can often share more information than they should, this can put them at risk of predators, identity fraud and reputation damage.
3. Most viruses and malware on devices is accidentally downloaded by a child under the age of 16.
4. Are you aware of exactly how much screen time your child is accessing.

Monitoring your child's online activity does not necessarily mean standing over their shoulder whilst they use a device.

## Keep your information private

With the increases use of various websites and apps, we would like to remind parents that some of the cookies and settings work across devices and multiple websites. Just like we spring clean our homes, remember to spring clean your devices to ensure you are only sharing data you are comfortable with.

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2020/apr/22/the-digital-spring-clean-how-to-sort-out-passwords-privacy-photos>

## How can I monitor my child's online activity?

1. One of the best ways to be familiar with what your child will be seeing is to have a go. If you hear about a new app or website your child is using, have a look yourself, explore the app/website and see what it is all about.
2. If you are still unsure Google can be your best friend, you can search the apps name asking for reviews, risks or description.
3. Make online safety conversations part of natural open discussions at home. We want our children to be confident to talk to us if they are worried.
4. Use parental controls.

Here are some useful websites that can help you to set up parental controls.

- <https://connectsafely.org/controls/>
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>
- <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/social-media-guides>

## Roblox update

Due to the majority of Roblox users being under 16, Safer schools have asked their online experts to carry out an investigation into the potential risks of the game.

There are currently a collection of games within Roblox that are trending.

One of which is the 'depression room' games. These games depict themes of isolation, cutting, and suicide with some chatrooms where users engage in unmoderated discussions around hopelessness, depression, self-harm, and suicide.

It is worrying that vulnerable children may be turning to these kinds of online communities for support and advice. Several of these games on Roblox already have up to 5.6 million visits and are advertised as being appropriate for 'all ages'.

If your child uses Roblox, please ensure you are monitoring which aspects of the game they are accessing.

If you wish for support on setting parental controls within Roblox please see the attached link

<https://connectsafely.org/roblox/#:~:text=For%20additional%20parental%20controls%2C%20go,on%20Roblox's%20in%2Dgame%20currency.>

If you have any questions about internet safety, please feel free to E-Mail Miss Newton or Mrs Blackmore at [snewton@east-stour.kent.sch.uk](mailto:snewton@east-stour.kent.sch.uk) / [elblackmore@east-stour.kent.sch.uk](mailto:elblackmore@east-stour.kent.sch.uk)