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Online Safety Newsletter

May 2020

Need advice or help?

All social media platforms have their own ways of reporting inappropriate content or users. In addition, the following organisations can help you:

NSPCC:

If you are worried about a child then the NSPCC can offer advice and support and inform you of the necessary steps to take:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/report/>

Childline

Children can contact Childline to chat to somebody about their worries:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/>

UK Safer Internet Centre

Report Harmful Content is a national reporting centre that has been designed to assist anyone in reporting harmful content online:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/helpline/report-harmful-content>

CEOP

If you are worried about online sexual abuse or the way someone has been communicating with your child online then CEOP can help:

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

Call of Duty: Warzone

Warzone is a new combat game where you join up to 150 players. The game is free and can be played on the PlayStation 4, Xbox One and PC. It is part of the wider Call of Duty: Modern Warfare series.

PEGI rating

This game has received a PEGI 18 which means it is **not suitable** for anyone below the age of 18. This rating has been given due to violence, motiveless killing, graphic violence and use of strong language. (Source: <https://pegi.info/>)

What you should be aware of?

- As you may be playing with up to 150 other players, you will be playing with other people you don't know. You should also be aware that this game does have a voice chat feature so players may be exposed to **inappropriate language or content that is unsuitable** for them to hear. This can be disabled in options/audio chat. You can mute everyone or everyone except friends.
- In app purchases are available in the form of a battle pass, which whilst not necessary to play the game, they may be enticing to players. As with any game that allows in-game purchases, ensure you have set up passwords and/or limits on any payment details stored within the device.
- The game contains very realistic graphics depicting violence.
- Reporting – players can be reported within the game, for example for inappropriate language or offensive customisation. Full details are available here: <https://support.activision.com/modern-warfare/articles/reporting-a-player-in-call-of-duty-modern-warfare>

Further information

Childnet have produced a parent's guide to Warzone which includes how to have an open conversation with your child once you have decided whether or not they can play the game. The article is available here:

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/a-parents-guide-to-call-of-duty-warzone>

Netflix

Update

Netflix have enhanced their parental controls, for example you can set a maturity level for each profile or restrict titles for each profile. Learn how to set up the parental controls here: <https://help.netflix.com/en/node/264>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into.
Current as of the date released 1.5.20.

Live streaming Introduction

What is live streaming?

Live streaming is when somebody broadcasts live (real time) video through an app or website. For example, users can live stream on Instagram, Twitch or Facebook. Children also post prerecorded videos and share them through apps such as YouTube or share them with friends via apps such as WhatsApp. Whilst live streaming, other users can comment, react and chat. Most of these apps are for those aged over 13+.

Risks

- If your child has a public profile then potentially people they don't know will be watching their videos, commenting and chatting with them.
- Whilst using these apps/sites, your child could view inappropriate content.
- Your child may share personal information.
- Videos can be recorded or screenshots taken so even if you subsequently delete the video then somebody may still have a copy of it to share.
- Your child could be subjected to cyberbullying.
- Your child may participate in online challenges which can sometimes be risky.

How can I help keep my child safe?

Use apps/websites together so you can work out how the privacy settings work and how to report or block other users when necessary. Ensure your child understands that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if they see anything upsetting online. Talk to your child about how to deal with peer pressure and how they shouldn't share or participate in anything that makes them feel uncomfortable.

Further links

The following three articles will provide you with further information and guidance on how to keep your child safe:

- <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/parents-guide-to-live-streaming-and-vlogging/>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/livestreaming-online-video-apps/>
- <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/what-is-live-streaming/>

Set up appropriate privacy settings

Don't share personal info

Have regular chats with your child

Learn how to use the reporting functions

TikTok Update

TikTok have announced that over the next few weeks they will be rolling out an update which will allow parents to link their own TikTok account to their child's account through Family Pairing. This will allow you to set controls such as:

- **Screen Time Management:** Control how long they can spend on TikTok each day.
- **Restricted Mode:** Limit the appearance of inappropriate content.
- **Direct Messages:** Restrict who can send messages to them (e.g. only approved followers) or turn off direct messaging completely.

Also from April 30th 2020, TikTok will automatically be disabling Direct Messages for registered accounts under the age of 16.

The full article is available here: <https://newsroom.tiktok.com/en-us/tiktok-introduces-family-pairing>

Video calling family

There are lots of different apps available to video chat with others – something a lot of us may be doing more of at the moment. This helpful article from Internet Matters outlines how to use some of the more popular platforms as well as some tips on how to use them safely including setting boundaries on when and where children can use these apps to chat with others.

The full article is available here: <https://www.internetmatters.org/blog/2020/04/09/how-to-use-video-chat-platforms-to-group-chat-with-family-and-friends/>

