

## Staying Safe Online

Advice to share with your child

### Never post or trade personal pictures

You don't know where they might end up or with who

### Never reveal personal information

Including address, phone number, school name or location

### Use a screen name

Instead of your real name when possible

### Never share your password

Except with your parents/carers

### Never agree to meet in person with anyone you met online

Without parental approval or supervision

### Use different passwords for different applications

This way if one password is hacked, the rest of your accounts are still safe

## Online Safety Newsletter

Winter 2022

## Roblox

Roblox is one of the most popular video games on the market. It has a PEGI rating of 7+, which gives a false sense of safety to parents/carers about their children using it.



### What are the risks?

#### Contact with strangers

Roblox encourages users to communicate online. This can expose children to risks like scammers, predators, harassment and more. There is a filter used in the chat but it does not prevent all harmful messages from passing through.

#### Public servers

The game has private servers that allow players to only play with friends but this costs money. The alternative is to play on a public server where players might interact with anyone.

#### Online daters

Some of the game players intentionally join Roblox to find someone to date and then meet in real life. This is against Roblox community guidelines but does not stop online daters. There are some player-built Roblox game worlds that are specifically designed for online dating.

#### In-app purchases

Even though the app is free to download, there are some hidden costs where players are encouraged to make purchases in the game.

## Social Media

Some risks children might face on a social media platform

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### Inaccurate or false information and extreme views

### Promotion of harmful behaviours

Including self-harm, eating disorders and suicide

### Oversharing of personal information

### Getting involved in bullying or hurtful behaviour

This could be deliberate or unintentional

### Seeing or sharing of inappropriate content

Including sexual, pornographic or violent content

### Meeting people posing behind fake profiles

This could be for the purpose of sexual grooming, stalking, blackmail or identity theft and hacking among others

## Wizz

Wizz is a new social media app that is becoming popular with teens. It aims to connect strangers with common interests together so they can chat and exchange pictures and videos. The age rating for the app is 16+ but the content and language used in the chats should make it 18+. It is also quite easy for a younger child to bypass the age verification system and use the app when under 16.



### Connecting with strangers

The aim of the app is to connect people with similar interests who might not have a chance to know each other in real life. This means that your child will be communicating with strangers. While some of this interaction could be to start a genuine friendship, in some cases it will be an attempt to manipulate them into doing or giving something that the stranger wants or to harm the child in some way. Contact with strangers can also lead to exposure to content or conversations that are not age appropriate for a child. This can lead to a child feeling worried, upset or confused.

### Inappropriate content

Even though the app's guidelines prohibit sexual or violent content, some questionable topics can slip into the chats.

### Age verification

The app's age verification system consists of checking your entered date of birth against a picture of your face, which is easy to bypass meaning that minors can find themselves mingling with adults but thinking they were with other similarly-aged teens.

## Parental Control Explained

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### What is it?

Software designed to protect minors from age-inappropriate content

### Available features

Block inappropriate website content

Create a whitelist of allowed websites

Create a blacklist of blocked websites

Limit amount of time children spend at a digital device

### App blocking

This is another feature that allows parents to block specific programs regardless of time of day or usage

### Invisible installation

A feature that allows parents to install the parental control app completely invisibly on a device. This means that tech-savvy teenagers will not be able to remove it or get around the filtering

## Flare Report App

A new free smartphone app has been released that can help women and girls feel and be safer on the streets of Northamptonshire. It allows women to report, anonymously and quickly, any incidents or behaviour that makes them feel unsafe when they are out and about. Police will collate and analyse the reports made, so that problem areas can be identified and action taken.

You can download the app by clicking on the link for your device:

[Apple App Store](#)

[Google Play Store](#)

## Qustodio Parental Control App

Qustodio is a parental control app used for monitoring phones, tablets and computers. It has to be downloaded on the parent's as well as the child's devices. The app is available for free but certain features are available only through in-app purchases. The free version allows parents to monitor only 1 child device.

Reviews of the app are quite positive as it allows you to see a summary of all of the activity of the child's mobile usage, as well as break that down by type of activity. Qustodio also allows parents to set screen time limits and stop access to inappropriate content on any browser the child uses.

You can check for more information on the features provided along with the cost for some features when you click on one of the links below:

[Download for Android](#)

[Download for iOS](#)

## More Apps You Can Explore

FamiSafe

Parental Control and Kid Tracker

Net Nanny

Kidgy

Norton Family

Screen Time