National Support School
designated by

National College for
Teaching & Leadership

Ramsbury
Primary School

English Hub
Ramsbury English Hub

Online Safety Newsletter   July 2022

Date for your diary—Online Safety Workshop for Parents

Andrew Williams from SWGfL will be running online safety training for parents on **Thursday 22nd September**, from 7.00pm to 8.30pm. This session will be through Zoom and we hope you will be able to join us for the workshop. I recently attended training with SWGfL and it was both useful and thought-provoking.

Mrs Rean

TikTok

You must be over **13** years of age to use TikTok. Users can watch musical clips, record clips, edit them and add special effects.

Why should I be concerned?

You need to be aware that some of the videos may contain explicit language and sexual imagery, which may not be suitable for your child to view. There is also the risk of strangers contacting your child so make sure you have set up the appropriate settings.

If your child is using TikTok then it is recommended to set the account as private (this is the default setting for users under 16 since Jan 2021). Even with a private account, your child's profile information such as their photo and bio are still visible so ensure your child understands the importance of not adding personal information (e.g. location, age and phone numbers) to this area. This article explains how you can strengthen your privacy settings and what features are turned off by default for accounts for children aged 13 – 15:
https://newsroom.tiktok.com/en-us/strengthening-privacy-and-safety-for-youth

Family Pairing

This allows parents to link their own TikTok account to their child's account. This will allow you to set controls such as restricted mode (limit the appearance of inappropriate content) and screen time management (control how long they can spend on TikTok each day). You can find out more here: https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide/

Challenges and Trends

Sometimes these can be risky. TikTok have produced this resource to help you talk to your child about challenges and the potential risks:
https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en-sg/online-challenges/

Blocking and Reporting

As with similar apps, there is the ability to report and block other users so ensure your child knows how to use these features:

https://support.tiktok.com/en/safety-hc/report-a-problem

https://support.tiktok.com/en/using-tiktok/followers-and-following/blocking-the-users

Fortnite

Is your child playing Fortnite? It is rated PEGI 12 for frequent mild violence which means it is not suitable for persons under 12 years of age.

What is Fortnite?

There are different versions of Fortnite, including a free-to-play Battle Royale game (although money can be spent within the game) where up to 100 players compete against each other.

It is important to remember that when rating games, PEGI do not take into consideration the communication features of a game. Fortnite does include a chat facility, which adds further risks.

What do I need to be aware of?

• Chatting to strangers and inappropriate language: Fortnite contains voice and text chat. Due to the nature of the game, your child may be chatting to strangers and may hear inappropriate language. Ensure your child knows how to report players for any inappropriate behaviour.

• In app purchases: All users can purchase V-Bucks directly through the game. This currency can be used to purchase items in the Fortnite store so make sure you don't store your payment details within the game/device and restrict purchases.

Parental Controls

Fortnite includes several parental controls to help you make it a safer environment for your child including disabling voice chat, filtering language and setting privacy settings. Find out more about parental controls here: https://www.epicgames.com/fortnite/en-US/parental-controls. Also, remember to set up age-appropriate parental controls on the device your child is playing on as well.

Further information

https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/fortnite-chapter-2-battle-royale-parental-controls-guide/