



# ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2023

## New Devices

With Christmas now come to a close and perhaps with presents including new technology or related games being received, we thought we'd provide you with a little reminder of how to set up appropriate parental controls.

### GAMES/CONSOLES

Always check the PEGI rating on any new games to ensure your child is old enough to play them.

Follow the links below to find out how to set up Parental Controls for each device

 XBOX  
[LINK](#)

PLAYSTATIONS

[LINK](#)



NINTENDO SWITCH

[LINK](#)



### TABLETS/SMART PHONES

As well as setting up parental controls on the device itself, remember to check the apps are suitable for their age.

iPhones/iPads

[LINK](#)

Google Play

[LINK](#)

# WhatsApp...

WhatsApp is a free messaging app that allows you to send messages, voice notes, photos and videos. You must be at least 16 years old to register for and use WhatsApp.

## What are the features of WhatsApp?

**Group chats:** Everybody in the group, even if they are not one of your child's phone contacts, will be able to see all messages within that group. If your child is added to a group with someone that they have previously blocked, that person can still see their messages and send them messages within the group chat.

We've had reports in school of children sharing person information (e.g addresses) of other children which is not allowed.

**Location sharing:** you can share your location on WhatsApp. Talk to your child about when this would be appropriate to use but also the potential danger of sharing their location, for example with strangers.

**Blocking/Reporting:** Show your child how to block and report.

**Online Bullying:** WhatsApp has been used in instances of online bullying, e.g. to send nasty messages or share images of other children without their permission. It is important to have regular chats with your child about their online life and that they understand that they must talk to you or another trusted adult if they are being bullied.

**Disappearing messages:** You can control how long a message can be seen for before it is deleted.

**View once messages:** When sending a photo or video, you can set it so it can only be viewed once by respondents.

## Safety Settings:

To prevent children being added to groups by people they don't know, we recommend changing the group chat settings from 'Everyone' to 'My Contacts Except...' and using the tick icon to select all contacts. The 'My Contacts Except...' option means only your child's phone contacts, except those you exclude, can add your child to groups.

For more information click [HERE](#)

## USEFUL LINKS

