



**St. Cuthbert's**  
Catholic Primary School  
Showing Christ's love in all we do



# ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER

## Autumn 2022

Welcome to the first Online safety Newsletter of this academic year. This terms newsletter focuses on how to stay safe on new apps and devices.

### Top Tips to stay safe this Christmas

With Christmas nearly here 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.

#### Set up the device ahead of your child opening it

A great way to ensure your child starts their experience in the safest way is to get the device set up before you give it to them. If you are gifting a second-hand device to your child, you can make sure that the device has been reset to factory settings before you give it as a gift.

#### Set boundaries

Our advice is to set some ground rules, and ensure they understand them. For example:

**Screen time**– Agree a time limit before hand around how long to spend on devices

**Gaming**– Be aware of age limits and discuss these

**Monitoring**– Decide the best way to monitor and discuss your child's online use. Talking to your child regularly and openly about online behaviour and risk, so that they know they can come to you if something goes wrong.



## HOT TOPICS



Bunch : Hangout & Play games

#### What is it?

Bunch is group video chat with friends while playing your favourite multiplayer online games .

#### Keeping Safe

It is live interaction so you never know what will be viewable. However, if you are only friends with people you know and trust

[Common Sense](#) Media have excellent review of this app.

## Parental Controls

During the Christmas period, often presents may include new technology and games. We have a little reminder of how to set up appropriate parental controls to manage online safety over this busy time.

### Device Controls

Different devices have their own controls based on their manufacturing. Internet Matters has a range of easy guides to help you set up your device, game or apps.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

### Broadband and network

Broadband and network controls can be used to prevent inappropriate material from being accessed. For example, restricting anything with a horror or sexual content from being accessible via your home broadband. Instructions for accessing these filters can be found on your service provider's websites.

### Online Controls

Search engines such as Google allow users to filter out certain types of search results. This means you can reduce the risk of your child seeing adult content like pornography, or set limits on the time they spend online. Look for the cog-wheel "settings" symbol where you will find the options for each provider. You can also encourage your child to use safer search facilities, such as SafeSearch Kids from Google.

### Social media and other websites

As with search engines, social media and sites like YouTube have privacy and security settings. These can prevent your child from being contacted by strangers or from seeing inappropriate material. It is important to remember that content

### Did you know?

- Most social media sites have age restrictions of 13+.
- **Youtube** states in it's user terms 'If you are under 18, you must have your parent or legal guardian's permission to use the Service and be above 13.'
- **Roblox** states 'content is generally suitable for ages 9 and up.'

**REMEMBER– Always check the content of games, sites and apps before allowing your child to use them.**

## Little Ones Online– EYFS



### Top Tips for parents of Under 5's this term:

- ✓ PARENTAL CONTROLS**  
Children need to be shielded from content that's not age appropriate. You can do this by adjusting parental controls and safe search settings on the devices, apps and games they use.
- ✓ ONGOING SUPERVISION**  
Try to stay engaged and present in what your child is doing digitally. Make time to talk about what they enjoy and how they can stay safe online.
- ✓ OFFERING HELP**  
Teach your toddler to ask for help – and that they should always tell a trusted adult if they're unsure about anything to do with a device, or they see or hear something that makes them scared or upset.
- ✓ COMMUNICATION IS KEY**  
Emphasise that your child should check with you before they do anything online for the first time – such as watching a new show, playing a new game or exploring a new app.
- ✓ FACE TO FACE IS ACE**  
Support toddlers' development of language and other skills by prioritising games or apps that encourage face-to-face interaction – like learning to read or count with an adult.

13+

