



# Online Safety Newsletter

January 2024

## New devices

If your child has a new device, have you set up parental controls?

### Consoles

All consoles offer parental controls such as limiting the time spent on the device or restricting who your child can communicate with. Find out the specific settings below:

- **PlayStation:** <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/psn-safety-parents-guide/>
- **Xbox:** <https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/family-hub>
- **Nintendo Switch:**

<https://www.nintendo.co.uk/Hardware/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls-1183145.html>

### Mobiles/Tablets

You can set up parental controls and restrictions on most mobile devices, which can limit what your child can access. Additionally, make sure appropriate settings are applied on the apps your child is using.

- Apple devices: <https://www.apple.com/uk/families/>
- Android devices: <https://families.google/familylink/>

### Further information

Internet Matters provide a checklist here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/e-safety-checklist-getting-your-kids-tech-devices-set-up-safe>



## Cybersecurity

Parent Zone have partnered with the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) to help educate young people on how they can protect themselves from scams and hacking whilst online. They have also created a quiz with the youth platform VoiceBox to test how cybersecure your family is. The quiz is available for ages 11-12 and 13-14.

You can find out more here:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/cyber-security>



# YouTube

**YouTube is intended for users over the age of 13** (however, children of all ages may use the Service and YouTube Kids if enabled by a parent/legal guardian).

## What if my child is under the age of 13?

If your child is under the age of 13 then your child should use either YouTube Kids or a Supervised Account. Which option you choose, will depend on your child's age and your requirements.

- **YouTube Kids** – this is a separate app that includes a smaller selection of videos based on the age you select:

- **Preschool** (ages four and under)
- **Younger** (ages 5–8)
- **Older** (ages 9–12)

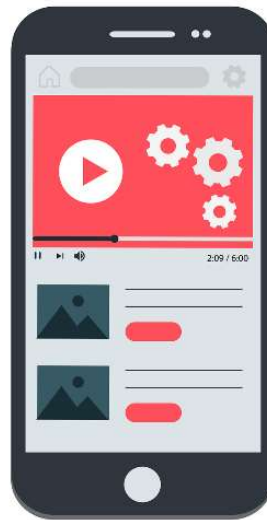
- **Supervised accounts** – this is a parent-managed version of YouTube. You can select one of the following options, again depending on your child's age and your requirements:

- **Explore** - Generally for viewers aged 9+.
- **Explore more** - Generally for viewers aged 13+
- **Most of YouTube** - This setting includes almost everything on YouTube except for videos marked as 18+ and other videos that may not be appropriate for viewers using supervised experiences.

Google have created a table to show the differences between YouTube Kids and a Supervised account to help in your decision:

<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10315420>

## Posting videos



## YouTube Content Warning

The INEQE Safeguarding Group have published a report warning about the YouTube cartoon series called Jeffy. Due to the content being animated, viewers may believe that it is suitable for children to watch when in fact the content is inappropriate. You can find out more here:

<https://ineqe.com/2023/11/09/safeguarding-update-youtube-cartoon-jeffy>

**You should be over 13 to post videos.** If your child does post videos on YouTube, ensure they understand what information they should keep private and what to do if they receive negative comments. Talk to them about the different settings available -

1. Public: anyone can view the video.
2. Private: video can only be viewed by users that you select.
3. Unlisted: only people who have the link to the video can view it.

YouTube have produced these safety tips for teens when posting content:

<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/2802244>

### **How can I make YouTube safer?**

- **Explore YouTube together** and see what they like to watch. Make sure your child understands that they can **talk to you** if they see anything that makes them feel uncomfortable online.

- **Restricted mode** - is an additional setting (when logged in via a Google account) to restrict the availability of mature content.

- Ensure your child knows how to **report inappropriate content/comments**. Find out more here: <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/2802027>.