Hamilton College

Grace & Knowledge

Knowsley City Learning Centres

Online Safety Newsletter ▸ July 2021

Summer fun!

Please explore these apps/games yourself first before sharing with your child to check that they are suitable.

Playtime Island from CBeebies App
Over 30 free games to choose from featuring CBeebies characters:
https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/cbeebies-playtime-island-app

Online Safety activities
Fun ideas to use to chat about Online Safety including colouring sheets, wordsearches and quizzes:
https://www.net-aware.org.uk/resources/

Summer Adventure!
Carol Voderman's The Maths Factor are offering a free Summer online course to help boost your child's confidence in maths.
Aimed at ages 4 – 11:
https://www.themathsfactor.com/summer-adventure/

ScratchJr
Aimed at younger children (ages 5-7), ScratchJr teaches your child programming skills as they create their own stories and games:
https://www.scratchjr.org/

Search for games
Use this online database to search for age-appropriate games for your child:
https://www.taminggaming.com/search

WhatsApp: group chats

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

Group chats
One of the main features is that it has a Group chat function that are set up by one person (who is the admin). Everybody in the group, even if they're 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.* You can leave a group chat at any point so talk to your child and encourage them to leave any chat that makes them feel uncomfortable.

Change Group Privacy settings
In settings, you can change who can add your child to groups, for example, you can change the settings to 'my contacts', which means that only those in your child's contacts can add them to a group.

Online Bullying
WhatsApp has been used in instances of online bullying, for example sending nasty messages or sharing images of other children without their permission to embarrass them. It's 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. This is a helpful article from BullyingUK which talks about what to do if you are being bullied online:
https://www.bullying.co.uk/cyberbullying/what-to-do-if-you-re-being-bullied-on-a-social-network/

Blocking/Reporting
If your child is using WhatsApp, then show them how to block and report a contact. You can find out how here:
https://faq.whatsapp.com/android/security-and-privacy/how-to-block-and-unblock-a-contact

Be Kind
How we behave online should be the same as how we behave face to face. This YouTube video from Dr Linda Papadopoulos tells us how we can encourage our children to be kind online: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1BqKi3J7g6Q

Further information
- https://www.whatsapp.com/safety/

Extremism & Radicalisation

Educate against hate has been developed by the Department for Education and the Home Office to provide practical advice and support to protect children from extremism and radicalisation.

"Anyone can be vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation, but children are particularly at risk. As they grow and become more independent, it is not unusual for them to take risks, explore new things and push boundaries. Teenage years are often a time when young people will be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging, as well as looking for adventure and excitement."

[Source: https://educateagainsthate.com/about/ Accessed 23.6.21]

This is such an informative website with links to further resources as well as answers to commonly asked questions:

https://educateagainsthate.com/parents/

Instagram — An update

Instagram have recently announced several updates that have been released or are about to be released.

1. Available now: Option to hide like counts

Users will now have the option to hide like counts on all posts as well as the option to hide like counts on their own posts. You can select to hide like counts on other people's posts in Settings – Privacy – Posts. You can hide like counts on your own posts in the advanced settings for each individual post. https://about.instagram.com/blog/announcements/giving-people-more-control
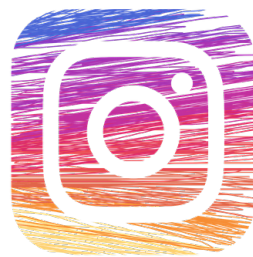
2. Available soon: Restricting DMs between teens and adults they don't follow

Adults will be prevented from sending messages to people under 18 who don't follow them. This feature will partly rely on users giving their correct age when they sign up to Instagram so make sure this is correct on your child's account. Remember you must be aged 13+ to sign up. https://about.instagram.com/blog/announcements/continuing-to-make-instagram-safer-for-the-youngest-members-of-our-community

In-game spending tips

Internet Matters and Barclays Digital Eagles have created this 30 second YouTube video to support you in talking to your child about in-game spending. Watch it here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N060J59YKBI&list=PLJSbhHkqYnrSHEmsr8jwYk7pdJsoHZQcR

Online Management Hub

Internet Matters have created this hub of information to support your child in developing their skills in managing money online:

https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-money-management-guide/

New blog post

This is an interesting article highlighting how we can maximise the positive aspects of internet use for our children:

https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/parenting4digitalfuture/2021/05/19/families-and-technology/

OnlyFans

OnlyFans is a subscription only social media platform. You should be over 18 to access. There is a risk of viewing explicit content. More information can be found here:

https://parentzone.org.uk/article/onlyfans-%E2%80%93-what-parents-need-know

Nude images

A new tool has been launched by Childline and the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), which lets children (under 18) report directly to Childline if a nude image or video of them has been shared online. The IWF will then work to have the image removed from the internet. More information can be found here:

https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/remove-nude-image-shared-online/