

Parents' Guide to Online Safety at Home

We can all get the best out of the internet when it's used safely and smartly. On this page you will find links to information, support and guidance regarding a number of internet-related issues and practical tips about how parents can control access to the internet at home.



Parental Control Settings

Many **mobile phones** enable restrictions to be placed on features such as app access and online purchasing, blocking inappropriate content and online games.

For how to edit parental controls on a specific brand of **mobile phone**, click [here](#).

If you are concerned about the amount of time your son or daughter spends online, parental controls on your **broadband router** can be used to restrict access to the internet during certain hours and to block certain websites, games, social media access and inappropriate content.

TIP: For how to edit parental controls on a specific brand of router, click [here](#).

TIP: Video guidance for how to set up parental controls on a BT router can be found [here](#).



Social media and games

Social media and **live gaming platforms** can be a great way for young people to keep in touch with each other, have fun and to express themselves. However, there are aspects to social media which are less desirable. Parental controls are useful if you are concerned about what your son/daughter may be able to view on social media apps (such as **Snapchat**, **TikTok** and **Instagram**) and live gaming platforms (such as **Steam** and **Twitch**), and the photos, videos or live footage they share.

TIP: For how to edit parental controls on a **social media apps** and **live gaming platforms**, click [here](#).

Similarly, for how to control the settings on **gaming consoles** (e.g. Nintendo, PlayStation and Xbox) and **specific games** (e.g. Fortnite and Minecraft) to restrict viewing of inappropriate content, online chat with strangers and in-game purchasing, click [here](#).

TIP: For further information on technical issues and how to safely get the best from the internet, see the [BT Tech Tips](#) website.



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Online Safety Issues

Sometimes use of the internet throws up unforeseen problems which you as a parent may need to address with your son or daughter. Understandably, you may initially feel uneasy with how best to resolve issues such as cyberbullying, viewing and/or sharing inappropriate content, sexting, or the amount of time your son or daughter spends online.

TIP: This series of guides and videos is a useful starting point: click [here](#).

Reporting Online Issues

If you are concerned about content you, or your son or daughter may have come across online, you can find out information on how to report it by clicking [here](#).

This link also contains advice on who to contact if your son or daughter may have been affected by something they have seen or experienced online. It is also helpful to inform your son or daughter's Pastoral Manager, so that we as a school are aware and can offer support where possible and appropriate.

