



Pear Tree Primary School

e-Safety Advice

A guide to setting up your child's phone, tablet or games console for safer use.

About this Guide

"First off, this is not intended as a preachy guide, the intention is to offer some tips on how to enable some settings on your child's devices that will make them safer to use."

With the prevalence of electronic devices in our everyday lives and the huge benefits they provide us and our families, it's very easy to overlook some of the basic safety settings that are designed to protect our children from unwanted contact or inappropriate content.

Most of the settings that provide the biggest benefits are really quick to set-up and while it's easy to assume that the default settings will be fine, or that **"there's no point"** in setting them up because, **"it's complicated"**, or **"the children will find a way around it anyway!"**. It is absolutely a good idea to spend the 10-15 minutes setting up the phone/tablet/console to be more secure and child friendly.

That new Christmas or Birthday gift is a brilliant tool, great way to pass the time and all round entertainment device, so why not make it a safer one too?

This guide has a page dedicated to each type of gadget, starting with the often most overlooked ones: The **Xbox**, **PlayStation** and **Nintendos** of the world.



Games Consoles

General Advice for All Consoles

I'm listing games consoles first as they're often most overlooked in favour of phones and tablets, whereas in reality they provide the most interaction with other users/strangers online. The specifics for each device vary, but all 3 big companies (Microsoft, Sony and Nintendo) all provide settings to make the console safer.

For all of them, I recommend creating a separate login for your children and not providing them access to your own (add a PIN to it). Then you can set what is accessible to that account. Specifics are below.

Do

Set up a separate account for a child/children. Set time-limits and age restrictions to their accounts.

Do

For your main account, password protect it or use a PIN and don't share it with your child. Use this account to adjust the settings and install apps/games on the others.



Xbox One & Windows PCs

Including Series X & S

Microsoft provide a mobile application for Apple and Android devices to remotely secure your child's Xbox (of any flavour): <https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/community/for-everyone/responsible-gaming> (screen time, age restriction on games and purchases).

Do

Download the mobile phone app to configure the safety settings of the console.

Do

Create separate accounts for each person and add a Password/PIN to the parents account.

Don't

Give your account PIN/Password setting to the child.



Sony PlayStation

PS4 / Pro and PS5

Much like the Xbox, the PlayStations have lots of options for securing the console, and are similar for both the PS4 and PS5. The links below outline the steps for both versions.

For the PS4/PS4 Pro: <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/ps4-parental-controls-and-spending-limits/>

For the PS5: <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/ps5-parental-controls-spending-limits/>



Do

Create separate accounts for each user and setup a PIN on the parent's account.

Don't

Share you PIN/Password with the children.

Nintendo

Switch / Switch Lite / Switch OLED

Nintendo, like Microsoft, provide a separate Mobile App for Apple/Android that will let you set-up all the age specific options and screen time settings for the console, from your phone. When the time is up you can enter a PIN number on the console to temporarily suspend the time limit, or add more time from the app.

Get the app here: <https://www.nintendo.com/switch/parental-controls/>

Do

Install the mobile phone app to remotely setup the Switch for safer use.

Do

Install a PIN number on the settings so that they can't be changed by the child.



iPhones, iPads & Macs

Apple use a system called ScreenTime, which you can use to configure what a user can and cannot access and for how long each day various things can be used. e.g. 2 hrs of reading and 1 hour of gaming etc..

You can also use it to stop Movies, Games and Music rated older than the child's account being made available.

Once setup on an account, the settings will work on all devices that that account logs into. If a child wants to install something, or needs more time they can click on a button that will notify a parent account, with which the parent can approve or deny it with their own phone/iPad/watch or computer.

For more information: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT201304>



Quick Tip

If you're letting someone else use your iPhone or iPad, you can lock it so that only the currently open App can be used, this will stop them accessing other apps (emails/messages etc..) on your device and you won't need to give them your password.

Go to Settings and enable Guided Access and set a PIN. Now when you open an App you can Triple-Click the power button/home button and lock the iPad or iPhone to only use that App until you enter the PIN.





Android & Kindle Devices

Many Android devices run different versions of the software and the settings will vary from item to item, but the Google Play Store (app store) lets you setup a PIN to stop unwanted purchases and there are 3rd party Parental Control apps available.

See <https://www.lifewire.com/childproof-android-4137048>

Finally

Technology is amazing and offers so many benefits, wonders and entertainment. The scary parts are far outnumbered by the good.

Using some of the previously mentioned safety settings can give you a bit more peace of mind and allow your family to use their gadgets more safely



For more advice on online safety see our school website's page on [e-Safety](#).

Also, the following web pages are great resources for keeping safe online:

- ▶ [ThinkUKnow](#)
- ▶ [NSPCC](#)
- ▶ [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)





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