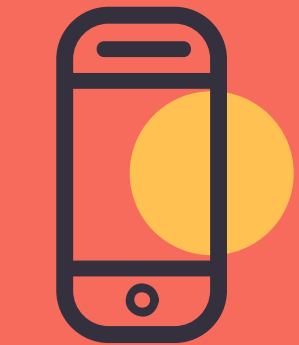


# STAYING SAFE ONLINE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS



Young people are using online forums more than ever during lock down to stay connected with their friends, for learning and entertainment.

Please find information for parents and carers about online safety advice and resources.



**Net Aware** The NSPCC's (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) host online Net Aware <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> provides expert reviews and safety advice on all of the most popular social networks, apps and games young people are using.

**ThinkUKnow** NCA-CEOP's (National Crime Agency-Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command) Thinkuknow website <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> has resources and advice tailored by age, as well as specific tools for parents and professionals and activities to do with your child.



**SWGfL** has useful information for parents, resources and toolkits. SWGfL has launched a reporting centre to assist the public in reporting online abuse and harmful content. The service provides up to date information on community standards and direct links to the correct reporting facilities across multiple platforms <https://swgfl.org.uk/>

**UK Safer Internet Centre** has lots of useful tips and resources to help children and young people stay safe online <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

**REMEMBER TO CHECK THE PRIVACY SETTINGS AND AGE RELEVANCE FOR ANY APPS, GAMES, LIVE STREAMING, MESSAGING AND DEVICES THAT ARE BEING USED.**

**FURTHER TIPS CONTINUED**

# ONLINE CHAT & LIVE STEAMING

**It is great to be able to meet with friends and family online and there are many to choose from. You can keep safe online by choosing privacy settings and only sharing log in/joining details to those you know.**

For example: **JusTalk** is a free video, voice and group calling app similar to WhatsApp. Included are added features such as games, stickers and doodles which makes the app more appealing to young people. All information and calls are end-to-end encrypted which ensures calls and chats can't be monitored or saved by servers. Users can create chat groups with their contacts and add others using their phone contacts, Facebook friends, QR code or JusTalk ID. It sounds ideal, however JusTalk also recommends "people you may know" to users who may be complete strangers, this is a potential risk to young people. There is a safety feature on the app called "Block Strangers", this needs to be turned on under the settings tab to ensure that only calls and messages can be received from contacts users already have. Known contacts can also be blocked under the settings tab to stop unwanted contact. Further information on blocking can be found on the app website: <https://justalk.com/support>

# ONLINE GAMING & MULTIPLAYER GAMES

**There are many multi-player games and they often have a chat function, which varies depending on the game and age rating. Check what chat is featured in a game, can it be turned off and it may also be possible to set up on a server with known friends and contacts. Many online games have a reporting feature and will restrict or block a player. Games often have purchases available, check that your device has in-app purchases are turned off to reduce expenditure.**

For example: the **Fortnite** survival game can be played on multiple platforms such as PC, Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo and mobile apps. The mobile app versions are free to use but feature micro transactions to purchase "V-bucks" which can be exchanged for various items within the game.

There are several versions of this game the most common being "Battle Royale" a multiplayer shooting game where up to 100 people participate in a match together. The game states that it is suited for ages 12+. There is a voice chat and on-screen chat function in the console and PC versions of "Battle Royale" which increases the risk of users being exposed to inappropriate language and content. The chat function can be disabled under the settings menu. Details on parental controls can be found on the game website: <https://www.epicgames.com/fortnite/en-US/parental-controls>

# SOCIAL MEDIA

**It is advised that Social Media is used by those 13 years of age upwards. Each platform has different privacy and restriction settings, and allow you to check what can be seen publically. UK Safer Online has useful information and resources <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/social-media-guides>**

**Young Minds** has advice for young people on how to manage their feeds and make social media a positive space. Young Minds **#Own your Feed** <https://youngminds.org.uk/ownyourfeed/>



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