



Online Safety Newsletter January 2025

Sherwood Junior School Online Safety Newsletter

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Getting to know our Digital Leaders - Say hello to Lena and Sophie



Hi, my name is Lena, and I'm in Year 5. I decided to become a digital leader because I enjoy helping others and creating PowerPoint presentations whenever I get the opportunity. Although I'm not an expert at it yet, I am skilled in Word, Scratch, and TTRS. Feel free to ask me for help if you need it—I'm always happy to help!

Hi, I'm Sophie, and I'm in Year 5. I became a digital leader because I enjoy helping others when needed and love exploring new skills. If you need assistance with a computer or an iPad at school, feel free to ask a digital leader or reach out to Mrs. Burton.

Online Scams



What Are Online Scams?

Online scams are deceptive schemes or frauds conducted over the internet to trick people into giving away their personal information, money, or access to sensitive accounts. Scammers often use social engineering tactics, fake websites, emails, or messages to appear trustworthy and manipulate their victims.

Common Types of Online Scams:

1. **Phishing:** Fake emails or messages that impersonate legitimate organizations to steal personal or financial information.
2. **Tech Support Scams:** Fraudsters pretend to be tech support representatives and convince victims to pay for unnecessary services or give remote access to their devices.
3. **Online Shopping Scams:** Fake websites or sellers offer non-existent products or services to steal money or personal details.
4. **Romance Scams:** Scammers build fake online relationships to exploit emotional bonds and request money or gifts.
5. **Lottery/Prize Scams:** Victims are told they've won a prize or lottery and asked to pay a fee or share personal information to claim it.
6. **Investment Scams:** False promises of high returns on investments, often involving cryptocurrencies or fake stocks.
7. **Social Media Scams:** Fraudulent messages or posts on social platforms that aim to steal information or distribute malware.
8. **Impersonation Scams:** Scammers pose as someone you know, such as a friend, family member, or colleague, asking for money or sensitive details.

How to Protect Yourself:

- **Be Skeptical:** Question unexpected messages or offers, especially those that sound too good to be true.
- **Verify Sources:** Double-check the sender's identity and use official websites or phone numbers to confirm.
- **Avoid Clicking on Suspicious Links:** Hover over links to check the URL and only click if it's from a trusted source.
- **Use Strong Passwords:** Use unique, complex passwords and enable two-factor authentication wherever possible.

- **Stay Updated:** Keep your software, antivirus, and operating system up to date to avoid vulnerabilities.
- **Report Scams:** Inform authorities or relevant organizations about suspicious activities.

ParentZone have put together a very simple but really useful webpage guide for parents - you can find the guide [HERE](#).

Supporting neurodivergent children in the online world



Navigating the online world can present unique challenges for neurodivergent children, such as those with autism, ADHD, dyslexia, or other differences in cognitive processing. With the right strategies and tools, parents, carers and teachers can ensure these children feel safe, confident, and empowered online.

Internet Matters have some brilliant resources on their website to help parents/carers. You can find these [here](#). It is also worth mentioning that Internet Matters hold various webinars throughout the year for parents/carers. They are often free of charge but do require registration.

Roblox



Concerns About Roblox Content and Safety

Recent investigations by Hindenburg have raised serious concerns regarding inappropriate content on Roblox, even for users who have set their age as under 13. You can read the full report here: [Hindenburg Research on Roblox](#).

What Is Roblox?

Roblox is an online platform offering a vast collection of games, where players can either create their own games or play those made by others. The app is free to download, but it includes subscription options and in-app purchases. Roblox is available across multiple devices.

Due to the user-generated nature of the content, some games may not be suitable for children. It's important to monitor your child's activity and set up parental controls.

Age Rating: Roblox is rated as Parental Guidance by PEGI because of the unpredictable nature of user-generated content.

Key Considerations for Parents

1. **Game Content:** Games are created by users, meaning themes and content may not always be appropriate for children.
2. **Chat Facility:** Players can interact with each other via chat. Communication can be turned off entirely or restricted to friends.

3. **Virtual Currency:** Robux, Roblox's virtual currency, can be purchased for in-game upgrades and accessories.

Age Categories on Roblox

Accounts are categorized based on age:

- **Under 13**
- **Ages 13–17**

More information on account differences by age can be found here: [Roblox Age Categories](#).

Recent Roblox Updates

1. **Roblox Accounts with Parental Privileges** Roblox now offers accounts with parental privileges, allowing parents to manage their child's experience directly from their own device. Features include: Setting content restrictions Managing screen time Setting spending limits Learn more here: [Parental Controls FAQ](#).
2. **Content Labels** Roblox has introduced content labels based on experience types instead of age. Parents can control which content labels are accessible. Categories include: Minimal Mild Moderate Restricted For more details, visit: [Parental Controls Overview](#).

Reporting Abuse and Blocking Users

To learn how to report inappropriate content or block users, refer to this guide: [How to Report Rule Violations](#).

Additional Tips for Parents

- **Regular Conversations:** Talk to your child about their online activities.
- **Encourage Openness:** Remind your child to share any concerns with you or another trusted adult.

Post - Christmas - setting up parental controls

Post-Christmas Reminder: Setting Up Parental Controls

With Christmas now behind us and many children receiving new technology or games, it's a good time to revisit the importance of setting up appropriate parental controls.

Games and Consoles

- **Check Age Ratings:** Review the PEGI rating of any new games.
- **Look Beyond Gameplay:** PEGI ratings focus on gameplay content, so also check if the game includes communication features.
- **Adjust Communication Settings:** If a game allows your child to interact with others, modify or disable these features as needed for their safety.
- **Set Device Controls:** Use parental controls on the device to manage spending limits and restrict communication options.

Here are links to set up parental controls for popular consoles:

- **Xbox:** [Xbox Family Hub](#)
- **PS5:** [PS5 Parental Controls & Spending Limits](#)
- **Nintendo Switch:** [Nintendo Switch Parental Controls](#)

Tablets and Smartphones

- **Set Parental Controls:** Configure the device to prevent unauthorized purchases, restrict content, and adjust privacy settings.
- **Check App Suitability:** Review any apps your child requests to ensure they are age-appropriate.

Guides for setting up controls on popular devices:

- **iPhones/iPads:** [Apple Parental Controls](#)
- **Android Devices:** [Google Play Parental Controls](#)

Why Are Parental Controls Important?

Parental controls help create a safer experience by:

- Reducing or blocking access to inappropriate content.
- Minimising the risk of cyberbullying.
- Preventing communication with strangers.
- Restricting unauthorized purchases.

Learn More

For further details about parental controls, visit: [Childnet – Parental Controls](#)

Taking these steps ensures your child can enjoy their new technology while staying safe online.

Positively Online

The NSPCC has shared six tips to help enhance your family's online wellbeing. They also offer a helpful guide for discussing your child's online activities and a fun quiz you can complete together. Learn more here: [NSPCC Online Wellbeing](#).

Age-Appropriate games



Here are some of the latest online games for children that are fun, engaging, and educational:

Poki Kids

Poki offers a wide range of free online games suitable for children, including car games, cooking games, and dress-up games. The platform is designed to be safe and enjoyable for young players. (kids.poki.com)

Boomerang TV Games

This platform features games based on popular characters like Looney Tunes, Tom and Jerry, and The Flintstones. It provides various game types, including arcade games, quizzes, and puzzle games. (boomerangtv.co.uk)

PBS KIDS Games

PBS KIDS Games hosts games featuring beloved characters such as Curious George, Wild Kratts, and Daniel Tiger. The platform offers educational games that are both fun and informative. (pbskids.org)

Funbrain

Funbrain provides free educational games for children, focusing on skills like reading, writing maths, and problem-solving. The site also includes books, comics, and videos. ([sclibrary.org](https://www.funbrain.com))

Gamesgames.com

Gamesgames.com offers a variety of online games for children, including popular titles like Baby Hazel Goes Sick, Pizza Party, and Burger Time. The site features games across different genres to cater to various interests. ([gamesgames.com](https://www.gamesgames.com))

These platforms provide a mix of entertainment and educational content, ensuring a safe and engaging online experience for children.

Contact Us



If you have any questions regarding online safety, please speak to your child's class teacher or Mrs Burton.

Visit us on the web at www.sherwood.notts.sch.uk

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