

# In Touch with Technology News



Term 5 Newsletter

## Is Fortnite appropriate for children?

### What is Fortnite?

Fortnite: Battle Royale is an online 'Player vs. Player' game available on IOS (including iPhone), Xbox, PC and PS4. It is advertised on the App Store as:

*"The #1 Battle Royale game! Squad up and compete to be the last one standing in 100-player PvP. Build cover. Battle your opponents. Survive the longest. Earn your Victory."*

Players can compete from around the world, joining a group of 100 randomised opponents and their friends. Since its release the game has increased in popularity, with children playing the game despite being underage. The PEGI age rating for this game is **12+**. The game is currently pulling in 3.4 million people at any time.

### Is this game suitable for children?

Though the game has an age rating beyond the age of a primary school child, many children in primary schools are still accessing the game. One parent on 'This Morning' claimed she had "Lost her 10 year old child to the game." (See This Morning for more information).

Children can play against other friends in a 'Squad of 4', however the game still needs to match players up with strangers around the world.

Games are rated a PEGI 12+ score for, "Videogames that show violence of a slightly more graphic nature towards fantasy character."

Though the violence is not deemed 'overtly graphic', there is violence to still take into consideration.

Another question for the suitability of the game is the online chat feature. The chat feature is automatically turned on (Xbox and PS4) and players are exposed to talking to strangers online. It is strongly advised to turn off this off.

As with any game, playing in moderation is key. However, the addictive nature and the increasing popularity of Fortnite increases the play time. There are also links in the media with children struggling to handle their emotions due to online games. A factor which needs to be considered when permitting your child to play games online.

## Keeping your network safe at home:

**1. Your Router:** Many routers don't include parental controls, but you can use 'OpenDNS' to set up parental controls on any router. To do this, you'll just need to change your router's DNS server settings to use OpenDNS to allow web filtering. Websites you block will redirect to a "This site is blocked" message when visited on your network.

**2. Windows 8 and Windows 10:** These have integrated parental controls that combine Windows 7's time limits and program access controls with Family Safety's web filtering and more new features.

**3. Filtering photo content:** Speak to your mobile phone provider. They are able to filter content on messages so that your child cannot send and receive images. On EE this is called 'Content Lock'.



## Top Tips for online gaming:

- Set a time limit for games and online apps so that your child is restricted to a screen time.
- Turn off any online chats – Roblox and Fortnite are currently running online chat features which can connect your child to strangers.
- Check the PEGI age rating and the meanings behind the rating.



# Digital Parenting information on social media and apps

## Safety and privacy controls on social networks and apps

Many social networks and apps have a minimum age of 13. Young people can have a positive experience by making the most of built-in tools to protect their privacy and safety.



### Facebook

**Minimum age:** 13  
**What can you set?** Decide who sees your posts and Timeline, unfollow, unfriend and block people. To find out more and report concerns: [vodafone.uk/Facebook](http://vodafone.uk/Facebook)



### Instagram

**Minimum age:** 13  
**What can you set?** Make photos and videos private and block people. To find out more: [vodafone.uk/Instagram](http://vodafone.uk/Instagram)  
 To report concerns: [vodafone.uk/InstaReport](http://vodafone.uk/InstaReport)



**Kik**  
**Minimum age:** 13 with parental permission; 18 without  
**What can you set?** Manage who can talk to you,

mute users in Video Chat and block people. To find out more and report concerns: [vodafone.uk/Kik](http://vodafone.uk/Kik)



**Whisper**  
**Minimum age:** 13 with parental permission; 18 without  
**What can you set?** Block people and hide your location. To find out more: [vodafone.uk/whispergetstarted](http://vodafone.uk/whispergetstarted)  
 To report concerns: [vodafone.uk/whispersupport](http://vodafone.uk/whispersupport)



### WhatsApp

**Minimum age:** 13  
**What can you set?** Control who sees your information, who you interact with, what you see and what you share. To find out more and report concerns: [vodafone.uk/WhatsApp](http://vodafone.uk/WhatsApp)



### Snapchat

**Minimum age:** 13  
**What can you set?** Choose who can send you Snaps, decide who can view your Stories and block people. To find out more: [vodafone.uk/snapchat](http://vodafone.uk/snapchat)  
 To report concerns: [vodafone.uk/snapchathelp](http://vodafone.uk/snapchathelp)



### Twitter

**Minimum age:** 13  
**What can you set?** Protect your tweets so that only approved followers see them, choose whether to share your location, unfollow, mute and block people.

To find out more: [vodafone.uk/twitter](http://vodafone.uk/twitter)  
 To report concerns: [vodafone.uk/TwitterReport](http://vodafone.uk/TwitterReport)



**ASKfm**  
**Minimum age:** 13  
**What can you set?** Allow or block anonymous questions, delete questions and answers from your profile and block people. To find out more and report concerns: [vodafone.uk/AskFM](http://vodafone.uk/AskFM)



**ooVoo**  
**Minimum age:** 13  
**What can you set?** Prevent certain people from contacting you, block

incoming calls, prevent people from seeing your photos and set video-call privacy options. To find out more: [vodafone.uk/oovoofaqs](http://vodafone.uk/oovoofaqs)  
 To report concerns: [vodafone.uk/oovooreport](http://vodafone.uk/oovooreport)



**Yellow**  
**Minimum age:** 13 with parental permission; 18 without  
**What can you set?** Choose who you talk to and hide your city so that people don't know your exact location. To find out more and report concerns: [vodafone.uk/yellowsafety](http://vodafone.uk/yellowsafety)

## Telling it like it is:

As tech-savvy as children are, they're often unaware of what they agree to in the T&Cs of apps and other services. To highlight this, Anne Longfield, the Children's Commissioner of England and Wales, had Instagram's terms and conditions rewritten into child-friendly language by top law firm Schillings as part of its recent Growing up Digital report. To find out more, see [www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/growingup-digital](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/growingup-digital)



## Live-streaming services



Live-streaming platforms let people chat or broadcast videos in real time. This can create privacy and safety issues, so check the settings and controls on each app.



**Facebook Live**  
**Minimum age:** 13  
**What can you set?** Decide who sees your live stream and Timeline, unfollow, unfriend and block people. To find out more and report concerns: [vodafone.uk/Facebook](http://vodafone.uk/Facebook)



**Skype**  
**Minimum age:** 13  
**What can you set?** Hide your age, date of birth and gender, only allow people in your contact list to get in touch and block people. To find out more: [vodafone.uk/Skype](http://vodafone.uk/Skype)  
To report concerns: [vodafone.uk/SkypeReport](http://vodafone.uk/SkypeReport)



**Periscope**  
**Minimum age:** 13  
**What can you set?** Hide your location, set private broadcast so only people you invite can watch your broadcasts, restrict chat to only people you follow and choose whether to share your broadcast on Twitter. To find out more: [vodafone.uk/pscphelp](http://vodafone.uk/pscphelp)  
To report concerns: [vodafone.uk/pscpreport](http://vodafone.uk/pscpreport)



**YouNow**  
**Minimum age:** 13 with parental permission; 18 without  
**What can you set?** Use a nickname, hide your location and block people. To find out more: [vodafone.uk/YouNow](http://vodafone.uk/YouNow)  
To report concerns: [vodafone.uk/YouNowReport](http://vodafone.uk/YouNowReport)



**musical.ly**  
**Minimum age:** 13 with parental permission; 18 without  
**What can you set?** Make your account private, let only friends direct message you (direct.ly), block users and hide your location. (To live stream content made using musical.ly, you need to use live.ly.) To find out more and report concerns: [vodafone.uk/musically](http://vodafone.uk/musically)



**live.ly**  
**Minimum age:** 13 with parental permission; 18 without  
**What can you set?** As you need a musical.ly account to use live.ly, the settings are the same as above. To find out more and report concerns: [vodafone.uk/musically](http://vodafone.uk/musically)

**Remember...**  
If your child sees anything inappropriate or sexual on a live streaming service, they should report it to the app or website administrator if they are the subject of inappropriate sexual contact or approach by another person, they should tell an adult they trust and report it immediately to CEOP at [www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-report](http://www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-report)

## Safe mode on video-sharing, TV and film services

Lots of online services offer video, TV and movie content. Some use password and PIN combinations to restrict viewing, based on age ratings. Some allow separate profiles for younger users so they can only view child-friendly content (these work only if the adult chooses the password and PIN and keeps them secret). Some platforms have dedicated children's versions, which only carry age-appropriate content. Look for the Just for Kids symbol.



**YouTube**  
YouTube's Restricted mode helps to screen content you wouldn't want your child to see. YouTube also offers YouTube Kids, specifically for children. It contains only age-appropriate videos and includes parental controls and a timer.

To find out more: [vodafone.uk/YouTube](http://vodafone.uk/YouTube)  
For more about YouTube Kids: [vodafone.uk/youtubekids](http://vodafone.uk/youtubekids)



**BBC iPlayer**  
The Parental Guidance Lock lets you control what your child can access. The free BBC iPlayer Kids app contains age-appropriate content, such as CBeebies and CBBC, and a Safety Lock, and it has no in-app purchases or adverts. Since spring 2017, you need a password to access BBC iPlayer. To find out more: [vodafone.uk/bbc](http://vodafone.uk/bbc)  
For more about BBC iPlayer Kids: [vodafone.uk/bbckidssafety](http://vodafone.uk/bbckidssafety)



**Netflix**  
There are four maturity levels in Netflix parental controls

(Little Kids, Older Kids, Teens and Adults/All Maturity) to help you control what your child watches. To find out more: [vodafone.uk/netflix](http://vodafone.uk/netflix)



**Amazon Video and Amazon Prime**  
Amazon's PIN feature lets you set purchase and viewing restrictions on each of your registered devices. To find out more: [vodafone.uk/amazon](http://vodafone.uk/amazon)  
Amazon produces special child-friendly editions of its Fire tablet with special features for families.



Turn on Restrictions to manage access to app purchases, movies, multiplayer games and other content on your Apple TV. To find out more: [vodafone.uk/appletv](http://vodafone.uk/appletv)



**Sky TV**  
Using PIN-protected parental controls, you can restrict the content your child can watch on Sky TV. The Sky Kids app lets you set up a child profile with shows tailored to their age, and set time limits. To find out more: [vodafone.uk/SkyTV](http://vodafone.uk/SkyTV)  
To find out more about Sky Kids: [vodafone.uk/skykids](http://vodafone.uk/skykids)



**TalkTalk**  
For Everyone  
**TalkTalk TV Store**  
This has been integrated with the parental controls in the Xbox 360 and Xbox One. Safety features are also available in the Windows 8.1+ app. To find out more: [vodafone.uk/TalkTalkTV](http://vodafone.uk/TalkTalkTV)