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## Online Safety Newsletter January 2025



### Parental Controls Booklet

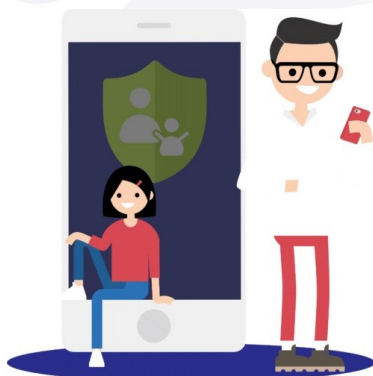


This Parental Controls Booklet will help you set up parental controls and adjust privacy settings to provide your child with a safer online environment.

Parental controls can help to protect your child from seeing something that they shouldn't - although it is important to emphasise that no system is effective all of the time, so it is important to engage with your child and talk to them about their online life regularly.

This Parental Controls Booklet covers all aspects of online life including:

- Operating Systems
- Home Internet
- Gaming Consoles
- Social Media
- TV/Streaming
- Search Engines
- Mobile Devices
- Smart Devices
- Further Advise



You can access the Parental Controls Booklet on the Online Safety page of our website: <https://www.yewlandsacademy.org/Parents/Online-Safety/>

You can download the Parental Controls Booklet directly to your device by clicking [here](#).

### Roblox: Inappropriate In Game Content

**ROBLOX**

You may have seen the recent investigation about Roblox by Hindenburg, which highlights very worrying concerns about the content that can be seen on Roblox, even when users have listed their age as under 13.

What is Roblox?

Roblox is a platform consisting of a collection of games. Players can either create games or play games that other users have created. It is free to download (however subscription options and in game/app purchases are available) and can be played across numerous devices. A lot of the content is user generated, which may mean not all games will be suitable for your child to view/play. If your child is playing Roblox, it is important to monitor what your child is accessing and set up appropriate parental controls.

PEGI rate Roblox with a Parental Guidance label, this is because it is difficult to rate due to the huge level of user generated content.

You can read the full Hindenburg report here:

<https://hindenburgresearch.com/roblox/>



# Mobile Phones: Do You Know The Risks?



We know that children having access to a smartphone can expose children to a range of online risks including:

- Viewing inappropriate content
- Excessive screen time/use, which in turn can affect their mental health and sleep pattern.
- Contact from inappropriate people/grooming
- Cyberbullying
- Spending money on in-app purchases/scams

What effects do mobile phones have on children’s mental health?

Compass discuss the research around this important topic, outlining the positive and negative effects that mobile phones have:

<https://www.compass-uk.org/services/compass-changing-lives/what-effects-do-mobile-phones-have-on-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health/>

What device? When you think it is the right time for your child to have a phone, then Which? provide an overview of some options available:

<https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/mobile-phones/>

# Vault (Secret) Apps



Have you heard of Vault Apps? Vault Apps are secret apps that are concealed by looking like a normal, less conspicuous app.

For example, one of these apps looks and works like a working calculator when opened, but when a passcode is entered, it reveals photographs, videos, documents and contacts.

One way to prevent your child from using these apps is to ensure parental controls are set up so you can review all app purchases.

You can find out how to Identify and Prevent Vault Apps on Your Child’s Phone here:

<https://www.safes.so/blogs/vault-apps/>

# The ‘Add Everyone’ Explicit WhatsApp Group



The INEQE Safeguarding group have issued an alert regarding a WhatsApp group known as ‘Add Everyone.’ Find out more here:

<https://ineqe.com/2024/10/31/safeguarding>

**National Online Safety**  
Launches Free Online Safety App for Parents

Download the National Online Safety app for free – the world's most comprehensive online safety app for parents, carers and education staff. Available from the Android and Apple app store.