

OS 18 launch (Apple iPhone)

Apple have recently released their latest operating system, iOS



18. iOS 18 offers lots of new features (some are restricted to newer phones) but one feature that you should be aware of is the ability to now lock and hide apps.

When an app is locked, Face ID, Touch ID or your passcode will be required to open it. This also means that notifications will no longer be shown for that app. Additionally, apps can now be hidden so they can only be accessed through a hidden apps folder that is also locked. This new feature illustrates the need to have regular chats with your child about what they are using their phone for.

Positively online

The NSPCC have published six tips to help you improve your family's online wellbeing. They also provide you with a guide on how to talk to your child about what they are doing online as well as a quiz that you can play together. You can find our more here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-g-children-safe/online-safety/online-wellbeing/positively-online/>

Parental controls

With Christmas just around the corner, we thought we'd provide a little reminder about setting up appropriate parental controls for any new phones, consoles or games your child may receive.



Games/consoles

First, check the PEGI rating of any new games to check that your child is old enough to be playing them. PEGI provides age classifications for video games and considers the age suitability of a game, not the level of difficulty. It is important to note that PEGI does not take into consideration user generated content within games (such as on Roblox) and the chat facilities within games.

Visit PEGI here: <https://pegi.info/>

For any new consoles, it is important to set up appropriate controls such as restricting spending limits and managing who they can communicate with. Follow the links below to find out about Parental Controls for each device:

Nintendo: https://www.nintendo.com/en-gb/Hardware/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls-1183145.html?srsId=AfmBOoqTnsGKXgaXBokQusQIX_sD6SCdyNMcmHkdSjQf3BgMUpBciIQ5

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

Xbox: <https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/family-hub>

Tablets/Smart phones:

As well as setting up parental controls on the device itself, remember to check any apps your child would like on their device, is it suitable for their age and review all settings and privacy options for each one. For the devices, use the available settings to prevent purchases, restrict content viewed and adjust privacy settings.

Follow the links below to find out more:

iPhones/iPads: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT201304>

Google Play: <https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738>

Further information tips and advice on setting up parental controls:
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

Social media

Snapchat, WhatsApp and Roblox are just a few social media networks that many children continue to use to communicate with others outside of school despite many having an age rating of 13 and above. It has come to our attention that many children create group chats that allow them to send messages, videos and images to everyone within the group at the same time. While some children use social media safely and only access age-appropriate apps, we have had reports of children using platforms in irresponsible ways, such as sending inappropriate, disrespectful and unkind comments/images to each other. These incidents occur outside of school hours and conversations continue in school as children are understandably upset. We value that every child has the right to be respected and every child has the right to feel happy and safe.

Our curriculum educates children on how to use technology positively, responsibly and safely. However, we can only successfully keep children safe online if we work in partnership. We encourage you to be vigilant and carefully monitor your child's online activity. Alongside this, we advise you to have regular conversations with your child about the correct use of social media to ensure they are making the right choices while online. This will help protect your child's wellbeing and safety and prevent them from being exposed to inappropriate and unkind behaviour online. We must remain proactive in guiding children through safe online practices.

My Family's Digital Toolkit

Would you like a personalised online safety toolkit? Answer a few questions about your children's digital habits and then you will receive age-specific advice to support your children online. The form does require an email address. It only takes around 10 minutes to complete.

You can find out more information here:
<https://www.internetmatters.org/digital-family-toolkit/>



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-alert-add-everyone-whatsapp-group/>

A guide to location settings

Many apps and games now ask users to share their location. It's important that your child understands the risk of location sharing and that you can discuss when it is appropriate to share.

You can read more here:
<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/guide-to-tech-using-tracking-and-location-settings-on-kids-devices/>