

How to ensure your child is safe online

The following advice is from www.thinkuknow.co.uk:

Internet Safety

- Help your children to understand that they should never give out personal details to online friends they do not know offline.
- Explain to your children what information about them is personal: i.e. email address, mobile number, school name, sports club, arrangements for meeting up with friends and any pictures or videos of themselves, their family or friends. Small pieces of information can easily be pieced together to form a comprehensive insight in to their lives and daily activities.
- Make your children aware that they need to think carefully about the information and pictures they post on their profiles. Inform them that once published online, anyone can change or share these images of them.
- It can be easy to forget that the internet is not a private space, and as result sometimes young people engage in risky behaviour online. Advise your children not to post any pictures, videos or information on their profiles, or in chat rooms, that they would not want a parent or carer to see.
- If your child receives spam or junk email and texts, remind them never to believe their contents, reply to them or use them.
- It's not a good idea for your child to open files that are from people they don't know. They won't know what they contain—it could be a virus, or worse - an inappropriate image or film.
- Help your child to understand that some people lie online and that therefore it's better to keep online mates online. They should never meet up with any strangers without an adult they trust.
- Always keep communication open for a child to know that it's never too late to tell someone if something makes them feel uncomfortable.

Some simple ways to keep children safe online

- Get to know your child's online habits. Children are inquisitive. They will look to explore the internet as much as they do the real world. Knowing the sites they go to, the people they meet there and what they do will help to keep children safe.
- Stay alert to any sudden changes in mood or appearance, or to any major change in habits or to increased secretiveness. These are often tell-tale signs that something is not right.
- Keep lines of communication open - tell your child they can always talk to you or another trusted adult, such as a teacher, if they do end up in some sort of trouble on the internet. Make children aware that there are things on the internet which may distress them.
- Spend some time surfing the internet yourself. The more that you know about the internet, the better able you are, in turn, to help your child navigate around it without coming to any harm.
- Install internet filtering software showing a Child Safety Online Kitemark on your computer. Filtering products with a Kitemark have been independently tested to provide a simple and effective means of support to parents, helping to ensure that a child's online experience is a safe one. The Kitemark scheme is sponsored by the **Home Office** and **Ofcom**.

Parental controls are a key part of the parent's toolkit, and a great first step to help keep your child safe online, says Internet Matters

internet matters.org

learn about it / talk about it / deal with it

Parental controls are software and tools that help parents to set controls for their children's computer use. They're a great way of helping to prevent children from accessing unsuitable content online.

Controls aren't a single solution to [staying safe online](#) - talking to your children and encouraging responsible behaviour is critical - however, controls are a vital first step to helping to protect your child online.

What do parental controls do?

There are many types of controls available, and they allow you to do a number of different things, such as:

- filter and block content you don't want your children to see – such as violence and pornography
- restrict information that can be shared
- set time limits on how long children are online
- control the time of day that children can access the internet
- set different profiles, so that each family member can access content that's appropriate to them.

Home broadband

Most internet providers – like BT, Sky, TalkTalk and Virgin Media – offer free filters that give you control over what content comes into your home. This means that any device connected to your home broadband is subject to the controls you've set on your home router or hub. These are sometimes referred to as 'whole home filters'.

Internet-enabled devices

Smartphones, computers and tablets come with controls that can be set up to restrict access to explicit content, in-app purchasing and other content that you don't want your child to see.

Most games consoles and devices are internet-enabled. This not only lets the user go online, but also chat with other players, and make in-game purchases. All the major gaming consoles and devices come with controls that allow parents to decide what can and cannot be done, both on the console and in online gaming platforms such as Xbox Live. Some devices allow you to set up different profiles with different rights for each family member.

Entertainment platforms

If you and your family access entertainment – films, music, or TV programmes - through the internet, you should consider setting controls on the platforms and sites you use. YouTube, iTunes, BBC iPlayer and Sky Go all have safety settings. Each is different and some, such as Netflix, allow you to create individual profiles with different control levels, so that each family member only sees content appropriate to them.

How to Activate Parental Controls When Searching Directly on YouTube.com

After many requests from parents and educators, YouTube now has parental controls so you can implement YouTube Safe Search in your browser when searching from youtube.com. In the past, you could only turn on safe search for Google's regular search results to ensure safe browsing or by using this site to conduct all searches. To implement the Parental Controls for YouTube, go to YouTube.com and scroll down to the bottom of the page....

You will see a reference to Safety Mode and it will say OFF...

Click the Off button to access Parental Control to turn on YouTube Safe Search.

Likewise, if you want to turn YouTube Safe Search Off, click the bottom what will now say "On"...

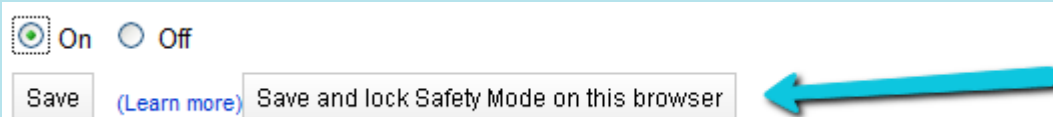
Locking YouTube Safe Search

As you will see, it's very easy to turn safe search on and off. Therefore, you may want to lock it in order to ensure it is always activated for all family members.

To Lock the Parental Control for YouTube, you will need a Google account. To open a free Google account, go to google.com and click "Sign In" in the top right hand corner of their main website. You will then see the option to create a new account.

Now return to YouTube and scroll down to the bottom of the page to the safety mode link as shown above.

After selecting the "On" button, you will see an option to Lock Safe Search...



Select "Save and lock Safety Mode on this browser". You will then be required to sign in to your Google account if you have not already done so.

Once Safe Search for YouTube video search is Locked, you can now log out of your account. Unlocking safety mode on YouTube will require you to log into your account. This guarantees that no one else can deactivate the safety setting.



Important: If you have more than one browser on your computer, you will need to follow these steps for each browser. Below is a video that walks you through the process of implementing YouTube Parental Controls that were just explained.

Consider using [internet filtering software](#) with full parental controls to block access to bad areas of the internet. At the very least, use our safe video search tool.

<http://www.safesearchkids.com/youtube-parental-controls/#.Vubqel6sWSo>

Search engines

Children can sometimes see things online which are inappropriate for their age and stage of development. The main search engines allow you to set up filters, such as Google SafeSearch, that help block inappropriate or explicit images from search results.

These filters aren't 100% accurate, but they do help block most adult content. You should also consider encouraging the use of child-friendly search engines such as Swiggle and Safe Search UK

Mobile networks

Mobile operators let you set restrictions on what can be accessed through their networks. Most are automatically set to block 18+ content and require the account holder's permission to change this. It's worth checking with your mobile provider exactly what is and what isn't blocked, and whether this applies to pay-as-you go handsets as well as pay monthly contracts. We also recommend that controls are set on the mobile device itself, as well as the mobile network. The reason is that mobile network controls won't apply when the device is used on wi-fi.