

Cyber Ambassadors



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The perils of the group chat...

WhatsApp

New group

Programmes like WhatsApp let you communicate with big groups of people at the same time. They can be very efficient—but there are some risks as well. If you're in a WhatsApp group, you need to take care...

Unless you've changed your settings, other people can add you to a group chat, even if you don't want to be in it!

People might have private conversations inside the group which might not be anyone else's business.

If an argument starts in a group chat, it might spread elsewhere and come into school.

People can get carried away on a group chat. They might spam the group with pointless messages, or they might use language you don't want to read.

Make sure no-one else uses your phone to post to a group chat—anything written in your name is your responsibility.

WhatsApp is designed to be used by people who are 13+. You should check with your parents that they are happy

Don't share pictures or videos of other people in a group chat unless you have their permission.

When lots of people are talking in a group chat, it can be hard to keep track of people's tone. Sometimes, people might get upset by other people's jokes. It is important to **think carefully** about what you're saying so you don't upset anyone else.

Remember—anything you say in a group chat can go public. Messages in a group chat can be shared by anyone who is in the chat.

If you are unkind to other people in a group chat, people will find out: we have often been sent screenshots from group chats by people who are upset, and we will contact parents if necessary.

Always think before you post!

What are PEGI ratings?

We all like to use apps and play games on consoles or phones, but not every app or game is suitable for everyone. The PEGI rating system helps us choose what is appropriate.



PEGI 3 games should be suitable for all age groups.

PEGI 7 games may contain mild non-realistic fantasy violence.

PEGI 12 games may contain more realistic violence towards non-human characters. They may also contain mild swearing and some horror content.

PEGI 16 and PEGI 18 games may contain realistic violence and other content that is not suitable for children.

In addition to the PEGI age ratings, games are also given content descriptions to warn you about their content. These are represented by a set of pictures.

These warnings are there to keep you happy and safe—if you're not sure if a game is appropriate for you, ask an adult who looks after you for their advice.



Tip for Parents—Controlling Screen Time

Parents often worry about how much time their children spend on their devices. There are lots of ways, though, that phone time can be limited. This can help children to “switch off” from their online life at the end of a day.

If your child has an Android Phone, you can install Google Family Link on their phone and yours. This will link your phones together so you can set them a daily time limit and a scheduled ‘night time’ which will lock their phone at a time you set. You can also use Family Link to locate your child’s phone (and, if they are with it, your child!)

If you and your child both have an apple device, you can set up similar controls using ‘Family Sharing’ in your settings menu.

