Online Safety Newsletter
Scotts Primary School

Autumn 1
October 2025

Welcome to this half-term's online safety newsletter.

This half-term, class teachers have discussed online safety expectations and shared age-appropriate acceptable use policies (AUPs) with pupils in their new classes. As parents/carers, do also take a moment to read our updated online safety policy and AUPs on the school website.

To learn more about the online safety and PSHE topics which all year groups cover over the year, an overview can be found here and a more detailed outline here.
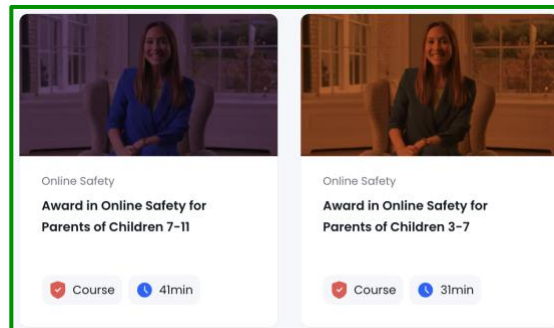
Ms Uppal & Miss Batchelor

Online Safety Courses for Parents & Carers

As a school, we have a subscription to the *National College* website which offers a wide range of professional development courses. This service also offers certified online safety courses for parents and carers, as well as weekly 'Wake up Wednesday' guides to further support parents, carers and educators on online safety, mental health and climate education issues. To access the content, please join via our school's unique link: https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/scotts-primary-school and select 'Parent/Carer' from the menu listing roles.

App Safety Settings

With the Online Safety Act now in force, there will be increased focus and scrutiny on safety settings by tech companies; however, parents should not rely on this approach alone. It is recommended that parents make themselves aware of the privacy and control settings of common social media apps which youngsters may be using. The guides listed below will support in this area:

- **WhatsApp** privacy guide: https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/whatsapp/
- **Discord** app settings: https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/discord-app/
- **TikTok** parental controls: https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/tiktok-privacy-and-safety-settings/
- **Snapchat** parental controls: https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/snapchat/
- **Instagram** parental controls: https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/instagram/
- **FaceTime** privacy and safety settings: https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/facetime-privacy-and-safety-settings/

Online Scams

Are you ready to test your knowledge of online scams? *Childnet* have created a quiz for 9-13 year-olds that includes a range of potential online scams, as well as tips to help your child protect themselves online. Find out more here:

https://www.childnet.com/blog/test-your-knowledge-about-online-scams-with-our-quiz-for-9-13-year-olds/

Roblox Updates, Age Estimation & Grow a Garden

Revealing Reality Report - Update

As the most popular online game on the planet with children, *Roblox* continues to gets a lot of coverage and understandably so. It's a fun and creative platform to explore, but it isn't without its faults, some of which are very significant. Following on from the April 2025 Revealing Reality Report which raised serious concerns about what children were experiencing within the game, a follow-up investigation has since been conducted to see what, if anything had changed. In short, quite a lot has changed, such as:

- Adjustments to content maturity ratings.
- ID verification for certain games and experiences.
- Stricter moderation
- Enhanced parental controls.

These are good but, according to Revealing Reality, they don't go far enough. There are still workarounds and significant concerns remain. The full report can be found here: https://think.revealingreality.co.uk/roblox-updated

Age Estimation and ID Verification Update

Recently *Roblox* have announced that they are expanding facial age estimation and ID verification to all users who access the communication features within *Roblox,* as well as new systems designed to limit communication between adults and children, unless they know each other in the 'real world'. Whilst the word 'limit' is yet to be fully defined, hopefully this is a step in the right direction. Further information regarding these updates can be found here: https://corp.roblox.com/newsroom/2025/09/roblox-to-expand-age-estimation-to-all-users

'Grow a Garden' Game

'Grow a Garden' is one of the latest games available on *Roblox* and is extremely popular. The game is labelled as 'minimal' for content maturity, which *Roblox* define as, "may contain occasional mild violence, light unrealistic blood, and/or occasional mild fear." *Roblox* believe that the game play is suitable for everyone. However, as the game is on *Roblox,* it is important to be aware of the following:

- **Chat –** strangers can interact with your child.
- **In-game purchases –** this game does include in-game purchases.
- **Screentime –** set limits for how long your child is playing.

A lot of the content on *Roblox* 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, ensure they know how to use any reporting tools and set up appropriate parental controls.

Further information: https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/30428310121620-Parental-Controls-Overview

Quick Links

Parental Controls	Digital Wellbeing	PEGI Age Ratings	Harmful Content	Commonsense Media	Social Media