



Digital Bulletin – Parental Control

Welcome to the first Online Safety information update at RGS. The aim is to provide a series of useful guides across all aspects of online safety. This edition looks at **Parental Controls** and what settings can be made at home and on personal devices to ensure personal safety. For detailed guides on how to set up parental controls across a wide range of devices and platforms, click [here](#). If there are any specific areas that you would like advice or support, please email me at njl@reigategrammar.org

What are parental controls?

Parental controls are software and tools which you can install on phones or tablets, games consoles or laptops – and even your home broadband. You can also use them to help you block or filter the content your child sees when searching online. Family-friendly public Wi-Fi can help when you're out and about.

Parental controls are also available to help you to:

- Plan what time of day your child can go online and how long for
- Stop them from downloading apps they're too young for
- Manage the content different members of the family can see.

So whatever your child is doing online, there's a way that you can help keep them safe.

Mobiles and Tablets

Lots of mobiles and tablets come with settings that can help you manage what your child can and can't see or do online. When using parental controls, make sure to check things like location settings and what information your child is sharing with others. You can get more information about setting up controls on different devices from mobile providers such as O2, Vodafone, Three and EE.

Home Broadband

Your internet provider may offer a free filter so you can control the content that you and your family see. You'll need to set-up any device connected to your home broadband manually. How you do this depends on your provider and you'll need to access your home router or hub. It's easy and simple to do. Refer to the link above for more detailed information.

Games Consoles

Most games consoles are internet-enabled, which means your child can go online and chat with other players or make in-game purchases. As is the case with mobiles and tablets, the controls on your games console help you to manage what your child can and can't do. Some devices allow you to:

- Set up different profiles for each family member
- Deactivate the internet
- Turn off chat functions to stop your child from talking to strangers

Film, Music and TV

You may need to think about parental controls when watching films or TV and listening to music. Smart TVs and services like Netflix, iTunes, BBC iPlayer and YouTube have settings that allow you to control who sees what.

Search Engines

Sometimes innocent searches lead to not so innocent results. Make sure the content that your child sees online is appropriate for their age by using the controls available in search engines like Google and Bing. Setting up filters such as Google SafeSearch helps to protect your child from seeing inappropriate or adult content.