



For further advice please visit

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

<http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/curations/stay-safe>

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

For information on

Socialising

Talking to people

Searching

Sharing

Using a Mobile Phone

Please pick up one of our leaflets

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Updated March 2016



Parents Guide



**What is my child
doing online !**

Parental Control

Parental Control

As well as being involved in your child's life online, there are a number of tools that you can use to help keep them safe.

Privacy Settings

Most social networking sites, like Facebook, now give your child a lot of control over what they share and who they share it with. Through a site's 'privacy settings' you are able to control:

☑ **Who can search for you** – this means that when people search your name on a site, your profile does not come up.

☑ **Who sees what** – this means that you can control the information you share, like your photos or 'wall' posts. You can usually restrict this to friends only, friends of friends, certain groups of friends, or everyone. We would recommend that for young people it is restricted to friends only.

☑ **Who can post information about you** – some sites enable others to 'tag' photos of you or share other information about you, like your location. Many sites enable you to restrict people's ability to do this.

It is important that you stay up-to-date with the privacy settings that your child uses and help them stay in control of their profile. For more information about privacy settings in Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/help/privacy>

Parental controls

As a parent or carer it can be difficult to monitor what your child is up to online. Most parents and carers trust their children online, but it can be easy for a child to stumble across things that might upset or disturb them.

Filtering and moderation packages are a good way to stop the majority of inappropriate and harmful content coming into your home. They are a tool to help you set and change online boundaries in line with your child's development.

There are some great packages out there, some are free and some come at a cost. Make sure you get one that suits your family's needs and budget.

How can this help me?

Every parental control package is different, but most provide services such as:

☑ **Filtering** – content to restrict access to particular sites, such as pornographic websites.

☑ **Time limits** – restrict the amount of time your child can be online, or set periods of time where your child can access certain sites.

☑ **Monitoring** – where you are informed of certain sites that your child is attempting to gain access to.

Parental Control

Reporting – where you are provided with information about what sites your child has used. Where do I get them?

There are three main levels for applying parental controls.

☑ **Internet Service Providers (ISP's)**. These are the organisations that pipe the internet to your home (like Virgin Media, Talk Talk, Sky and BT). All of the major ISP's provide parental control packages.

These can allow you to apply controls across all of the devices that access the internet through your home connection – such as laptops or games consoles.

☑ **Devices that connect to the internet**. Most computers, mobiles and games consoles now come with parental controls that can be applied. For example, within Windows and the Mac operating systems, there are parental controls that can be set for individual devices.

Software.

There are a wide range of packages available to buy or sometimes download for free – always look for reputable companies and check out reviews online.

Does this make my child safe?

Parental controls will never make the internet 100% 'safe'. They should not be used as a substitute for communicating safety messages to your child. Make sure that you

Set time limits – manage how long your children spend online

☑ **Get instant alerts** – get email or text alerts when your kids try to view blocked sites or post confidential information

☑ **Social networking tools** – control the use of social networks like Facebook and Twitter and set up text alerts if personal information is posted

☑ **YouTube filtering** – a unique technology to prevent exposure to unsuitable content

☑ **Usage reports** – review your children's online activity from anywhere in the world

As well as parental controls, you also get:

☑ **Advanced spam filtering** – with image blocking to protect children from offensive content

☑ **Access to our internet abuse prevention team** – for children or parents to report any concerns

Talk to your child about their behaviour online and remember, your home is not the only place they will be accessing the internet! Never ask your children to set these settings, if you are not confident in putting these in place ask a family friend or the shop assistant to help.