

Secure Online Gaming



KNOW YOUR SAFE AND UNSAFE CONVERSATIONS

Games now include large online communities allowing them to interact using voice or text. These online communities consist of assumed identities, unfiltered and unmoderated conversations.

Always remind young people to avoid recklessly giving personal information and to look out for potential grooming signs i.e. increased offer of in-game rewards or gifts.

Explore tools such as Click CEOP to report unwanted communications online.

A friend does not make you feel 'uncomfortable' whilst playing online.

The Internet Watch Foundation is available to report online criminal content i.e. inappropriate pictures/videos of children.

CONTROL OVER IN-GAME PURCHASES

'In Game purchases' also known as loot boxes, are found in many games. One way to avoid 'accidental spending' is using gift cards instead of debit/credit cards. This does not only allow control over spending, but securing personal data too. Make use of in-game settings to turn off in-game purchase or to allow for parental/guardian authorisation before completing a purchase.

Encourage looking out for in-game scammers, trading or selling characters or materials, check for reviews or videos on trusted traders before completing a purchase.

CYBERBULLYING, GRIEFING AND TROLLING

It is important to encourage young people to communicate and interact with 'real-life' friends online. With fall-outs just as common online, children may find themselves falling victim to cyberbullying or griefing - being excluded or isolated from a game. Talk to your child about their online friendships, encourage them to give an adult a shout if in doubt, and if they would like to talk to someone else, call Childline 0800 111. Get to know the games your child likes to play, as some games allow them to mute messaging services, microphones and video-chats.

PROMOTE SECURE GAMING ...

Review and revamp privacy settings on devices (tablets, consoles) and in-game settings.

Use in-game help & support pages and reporting tools.

Get to know the PEGI ratings - a traffic light guide into the content of the game.

Set guidelines, have a conversation and explore, know the games your children play.

