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Online Safety Newsletter

Merrylands



Technology at Christmas



Staying safe over the festive period is a concern for every family and digital safeguarding is an important part of keeping children and young people protected. Gifts such as Tablets, Gaming Consoles or Smartphones can all be used to go online so it is important to think ahead about what safety features are available and set them up in advance.

The Safer Internet Centre <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-guide-to-technology>

has some excellent advice in their Parents' Guide to Technology and includes device-specific settings for different models.

Explore more about parental controls at <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

As a family you may want to think about setting up a Family Agreement as suggested by Childnet International. <https://www.childnet.com/blog/family-agreement/>

Tablets/Smart phones

As well as setting up parental controls on the device itself, remember to check any apps your child would like on their device. Is it suitable for their age? Review all settings and privacy options for each app. For the devices themselves use the available settings to prevent purchases, restrict content viewed and adjust privacy settings. Follow the links below to find out more:

Phones/iPads: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT201304>

Screentime advice

We're often asked how long children should spend on their devices each day. Childnet have created a blog discussing why it is difficult to specify a limit and what you should consider.

You can read it here: <https://www.childnet.com/blog/screen-time-guidance-for-parents-and-carers/>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 07.12.22.