

Online Safety Newsletter

Merrylands



TikTok



TikTok Update Parental Controls with Family Pairing Feature (SWGfL)

TikTok is used by many teenagers and sometimes children younger than 13 years of age despite the terms and conditions. Using the new Family Pairing feature can allow parents to guide their child's TikTok experience in a safer way. Features include:

- ◆ Search: Decide what can be searched for. This includes content, users, hashtags, or sounds
- ◆ Screen Time Management: Sets how long your teen can spend on TikTok each day
- ◆ Discoverability: Decide on the account being private (you decide who can see their content) or public (anyone can search and view content)

To find out more information about TikTok's Family Pairing feature and to download a helpful poster to share with pupils and parents, go to: <https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/tiktok-update-parental-controls-with-family-pairing-feature/>

WhatsApp

Disappearing messages

WhatsApp have introduced disappearing messages. If enabled, a user can send a message that will disappear after seven days. WhatsApp advise users to only use disappearing messages with trusted individuals because of the risks of sending disappearing messages. For example, users are still able to take a screenshot of a disappearing message before it disappears and then share with others. You can find out more information here:

<https://faq.whatsapp.com/general/chats/about-disappearing-messages>



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Online safety is as important as ever in the lead up to the festive season. The Essex Safeguarding Children Board are reminding parents that if their child does receive new technology for Christmas, it's important to set up devices correctly to keep them safe when online. Follow the online safety awareness campaign on Facebook @ESCBSafeguards and Twitter @Essex Safeguards and access resources about online child exploitation on the [www.escb.co.uk/onlineexploitation]ESCB website.

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TWITCH



Twitch is a live video game website. Users can search for a game and then watch the game being played live (or via playback) by another user. You should be 13+ to access Twitch, although according to their Terms of Service, users between the ages of 13 and 18 may use Twitch under the supervision of a parent or guardian.

As you can search for any game, your child might end up watching games that are not age appropriate, for example Call of Duty (18+). Twitch also streams live which means it is difficult to censor the chat so they may also hear unsuitable language.

Privacy Settings

Set up appropriate privacy settings for your child, including switching off messages from users your child does not follow. You can learn more here: <https://help.twitch.tv/s/article/twitchaccount-settings#securityandprivacy>

Chat

Twitch gives users the opportunity to interact with others through the chat facilities. Whilst Twitch sets out what their standards are, language can be mature plus they could potentially be chatting with people they don't know.

Block users

Ensure your child knows how to block or report users and content when using this service. More information can be found here: <https://help.twitch.tv/s/article/how-tofile-a-user-report> More support/information <https://www.netaware.org.uk/networks/twitch/>

Monitoring Apps

Would you like to monitor what your child is doing online? The best app to use will be dependent on what devices your child is using but this helpful article from Internet Matters reviews the top monitoring apps for you:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/monitoring-apps-parents-guide/>