Welcome to the October 2021 Scomis Online Safety Newsletter for Parents

What is a Loot Box?

Loot boxes are a key feature of many online games. They have come under fire for using predatory techniques to push players to spend money while gaming.

In 2019 Parent Zone's report Rip-off Games identified:
93% of 10-16-year-olds play online games regularly.
76% of them say games try to get them to spend money all the time

What you can do!
- Show an interest in the games being played
- Get involved and become aware on the amount your child is spending
- Check that **your card** details aren't saved on any
- gaming system
- Beware of having payment methods (prepaid cards, debit/credit card) linked to their account

Check Parent Zone for more information and advice here
Review the UK Safer Internet Centre's article '11 things you should know about loot boxes'
Loot boxes are common in games such as:
Fortnite
Apex Legends
Star Wars Battlefront II
FIFA Sports games

UK Safer Internet Centre
www.saferinternet.org.uk

Keeping up to date with Media Sites, Apps and Games

Would you like to:
- Keep up to date with the latest sites, apps and games?
- Find out how to keep your child safe when playing online games?

Visit **NSPCC's NetAware** site to find out more about sites and apps including:
- TikTok
- Instagram
- Whatsapp

View their easy to watch video here

The Children's Code: What you need to know

Introduced by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) as a part of the 2018 Data Protection Act, the Children's code is another name for the **Age-appropriate design code**. The code:
- contains 15 'standards' which all online services – including apps, games, connected toys and devices, and news services – **must follow in order to protect children's data online**
- applies to any online service that is likely to be accessed by someone under the age of 18

From September 2021, all companies must conform with the code.
Watch a short video about the Children's code to find out more here

Digital Resilience Toolkit for Parents

Looking for advice and help on how to help children become more resilient online?
Working with their 'Online expert ambassador' Dr Linda Papadopoulos, Internet Matters has created a number of age-specific resources to help children to become more resilient and cope with whatever the online world throws at them.
Toolkits including easy to watch videos:
- Supporting 6 – 10 year olds
- Supporting 11 - 13 year olds
- Support 14+ year olds
- Online Safety Age Guides
- Interactive Guides

Find out more here

Do you want to become a good digital parent?

The NSPCC's article '**Being a good digital role model to your child**' ask you to consider the following:
- Do you keep passwords safe and not share them with others?
- Do you schedule your notifications to turn off for certain times of the day?
- Do you talk about things you read online with your children?
- Do you think about what you are sharing online?

Find out the answers to the above questions and much more From the NSPCC's site here
Test your child's online safety knowledge with the NSPCC's age related quiz:
- Under 13's
- Over 13's

Online safety quiz
13+ question sheet

O₂ | NSPCC
Net Aware

Section 1 Use the Net Aware site to find the age rating for each app.
TikTok   WhatsApp   Zoom   Among Us   Instagram   Discord   Snapchat

Have you heard of Squid Games?

Recommended Age 15 Pegi Rating
Commonsense Media's review:
Parents need to know that the level of violence is very intense in Squid Game. Characters are systematically tortured and killed for the sadistic pleasure of a game master. Women are grabbed by the hair and beaten. Find out more and read parent reviews at: Commonsense Media here
Review Wayne Denner's blog and video on Squid Games here

Need Help?

Remember FREE advice is just a phone call away from the O₂ and NSPCC helpline 0808 800 5002

SCOMIS
Your ICT Partner