

The Nelson Thomlinson School

Online Safety Newsletter: Oct 2018

ROBLOX

Roblox allows users to create their own virtual worlds and play with other people on a range of platforms, including mobile phones and Xboxes. By creating things, players can earn "Robux" to buy accessories, additional skills or more tools and materials to build with.

What do I need to be aware of?

There is a chat facility within Roblox. **For users aged 12 and under**, Roblox automatically enforces more restricted settings so they can only directly message other friends (that they've accepted) but does your child know all their 'friends' on Roblox?

Players age 12 and younger have their posts and chats filtered both for inappropriate content and behavior and to prevent personal information from being posted. Players age 13 and older have the ability to say more words and phrases, but inappropriate chat and sharing personal information should be restricted. To adjust the chat and interaction settings of your child's account:

- Click on the gear icon in the upper right corner and click **Settings**.
- On the right hand side of the Settings page click the **Privacy** option.

Users and their parents may also enable an Account PIN which requires a 4-digit code to make changes to the account.

Can I see what my child is doing on Roblox?

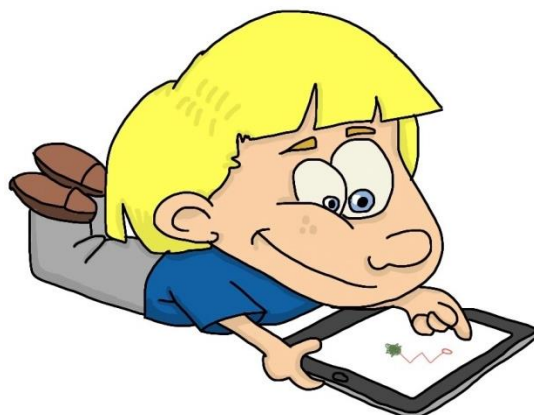
Roblox has several ways to see the history for certain activities. When logged in, you can view the following histories:

- Private message history
- Friends and Followers
- Virtual item purchase and trade history
- Chat history with other players

For more information, Roblox have created this parent's guide:

<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>

(Source: <https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/203313120-Safety-Features-Chat-Privacy-Filtering>)



Apple device?

New Screen Time features available with iOS 12

Apple have released a software update which includes a new feature called Screen Time (under settings) which contains daily activity reports, total time spent in each app used, usage across categories of apps and how often you use your device. There is also an 'App Limits' feature so you can set a specific amount of time to be in a particular app, when this time has been reached a notification will display.

Why is this useful for you?

Through Family Sharing, you can view your child's Activity Report from your own device and see how much time your child is spending on their device and set App Limits for them. You can also block usage at certain times e.g. bedtime. When set, notifications will not be displayed. What's really useful is that parents can choose specific apps like Phone or Books that will always be available.

More information available here: <https://www.apple.com/uk/newsroom/2018/06/ios-12-introduces-new-features-to-reduce-interruptions-and-manage-screen-time/>

Go online together!

Why not watch this video from Common Sense with your child (recommended school year 7 – 9) and then talk about it together?

<https://youtu.be/wyjd73tUXig>

This is an animated music video which raps about the hazards of oversharing online and is designed to make you think about your digital footprint. Here are some questions that you could ask your child?

- Do you use privacy settings on all your social media accounts?
- How do privacy settings help you manage your digital footprint?

Instagram

Instagram are rolling out a number of new safety measures. They have now released a Parent's guide to help you talk to your child about Instagram. It's a really useful guide and includes how to manage privacy, interactions and their time spent on Instagram as well as 10 questions to help you start a conversation.

<https://wellbeing.instagram.com/parents>

What you need to know about Live streaming

National Online Safety has produced this excellent guide for parents outlining what you need to know about Live streaming (when you broadcast real-time video). There are lots of positives including watching live concerts and speaking with friends but you need to be aware of the potential dangers such as chatting with strangers so you can talk about it with your children. Download it here:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/live-streaming-guide-for-parents/>



PUBG (PC/Xbox)

(PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds)

This game has been rated 16+ by PEGI due to frequent moderate violence towards human characters and encouragement of drug use. Not suitable for persons below 16 years of age.

It's an online multiplayer game, in which a group of students are forced to fight to the death by the government. 100 players are dropped on to the island and they quickly need to search for items, such as backpacks, body armour and guns and then try to kill each other until they are the only remaining player.

Parents should be aware that this can be an addictive game and due to the live chat, inappropriate or offensive language may be heard.

National Online Safety have produced this brilliant guide for Parents which includes how to report users:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/pubg-parents-guide/>

