

10 November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been brought to our attention by some of our Springfield children that they either did not feel safe or felt something was not right whilst playing on the internet game 'Roblox.' Due to the concern that has been raised, we have found some advice about the game from the NSPCC's website.

Please read the following for advice and guidance for your own information about the game your child may be playing at home.

If you have any questions, please contact the Pastoral team or you can find other online safety advice on our Facebook page where items are shared regularly to keep you up to date with current changes in all things 'Online'!

Kind Regards,  
The Pastoral Team

### Is Roblox safe for my child?

#### Information to help you decide if Roblox is suitable for your child

Roblox is a gaming platform where players can create and publish their own games. The platform can be a great educational tool to help teach children new skills like coding. However, there are also some risks.

Roblox allows players to build and publish their own games. This means that other users could build games that contain adult or inappropriate themes that your child might see.

Players can use the communication features of Roblox to talk to one other while they are playing. This means that there is a risk of cyberbullying or unwanted contact.

Roblox does have Community Standards that outline what behaviour is and isn't acceptable on the platform. They also have moderators who review and remove inappropriate content. They

also have a range of parental controls and safety settings that can help keep your child safer on the platform.

Here are some tips that can help keep them safe on the platform.

Six tips to help keep your child safe on Roblox:

- Sign up with the correct age  
Make sure your child creates an account using the correct age. On Roblox, certain safety settings and parental controls are enabled by default for children under 13. However, you should still review the settings to ensure they've been set up correctly.
- Build a list of age-appropriate games  
Not all games on Roblox will be appropriate for your child. The platform has a setting that lets parents and carers limit what their child can play by allowing them to build lists of age-appropriate games. You can also switch off in-app spending or set them monthly limits.
- Explore communication settings  
You can manage who your child can speak to by disabling chat completely or limiting it to friends only. You can also switch off their inbox to stop them receiving direct messages.
- Explore the platform together  
Ask your child to give you a demonstration of the platform to help you understand how they use it and explore some of the parental controls together. You could even consider setting up your own account and playing the games yourself.
- Have regular conversations about gaming  
Continue to have regular conversations with them about what they are doing online. Ask your child open questions like 'What games have you been playing on Roblox recently?' or 'What platforms have you been using to play games?'
- Check out our Online Safety Hub  
Visit our Online Safety Hub for more advice and tips on gaming, talking to your child and much more. If you need more information on setting up parental controls on Roblox, visit their Parent Guide.

We've noticed as a result of the pandemic, parents are starting to see the benefits of online gaming but are also becoming more aware of the risks faced. In particular we see contacts about scamming and unwanted contact.

It's important to make sure you talk to your child about the types of games they are playing and understand the different features.

Many popular platforms have advice pages for parents and carers that highlight the different safety settings available. You should always make sure your child signs up with the correct age as well, as access to certain features and settings is sometimes determined by age.

Leanne, NSPCC Helpline Manager