

HOST BOROUGH

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

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Safeguarding- Online Safety

Dear Parents/Carers,

We understand that many children have easy access to the internet via mobile phone networks. This access could result in children experiencing inappropriate content but also engaging with their peers which can lead to peer on peer abuse. We understand the importance of working with parents as you also have a vital role in keeping your child safe online.

Please keep a watchful eye on the content that your child is viewing, ensure you are monitoring when they are on a device. Speak to them openly and chat about how they have been spending time on their devices; let them ask questions too.

Ensure that the parental controls are activated on your child's device and that age-restricted child profiles are properly set up on any on-demand services available through the family TV (such as Netflix) to prevent inappropriate content being streamed. All social media apps, films and games have legal age restrictions; for example, the recent Squid Game on Netflix has a 15+ viewer age rating due to the content and therefore is not suitable for viewing for anyone under that age rating. Age restrictions are in place to safeguard children from any inappropriate content.

We have attached some very useful Online safety guides that include setting up parental controls on mobile devices. You can also download the National Online Safety app on your mobile that will provide you with guides and tips for keeping your children safe online. The app can be downloaded by clicking on this link.

<https://info.nationalonlinesafety.com/mobile-app>

Our School website also has helpful links of support and information around online safety:

[https://www.centralpark.newham.sch.uk/online safety](https://www.centralpark.newham.sch.uk/online%20safety) which has links for support and tips to keeping safe online,

You can contact the school if you need help with setting up parental controls at home.

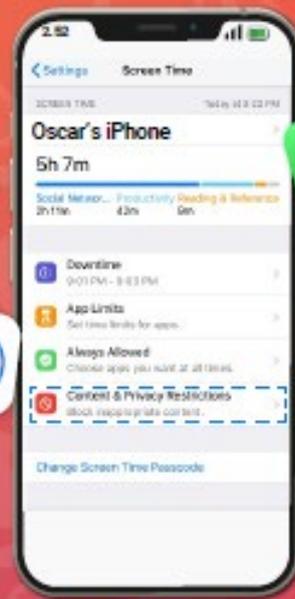
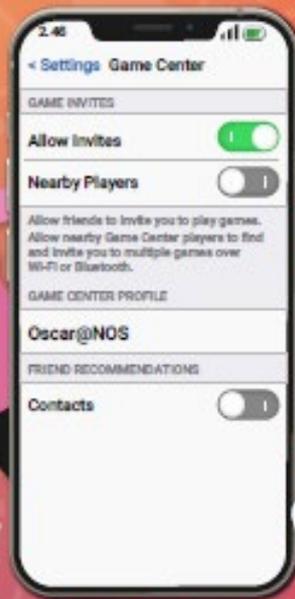
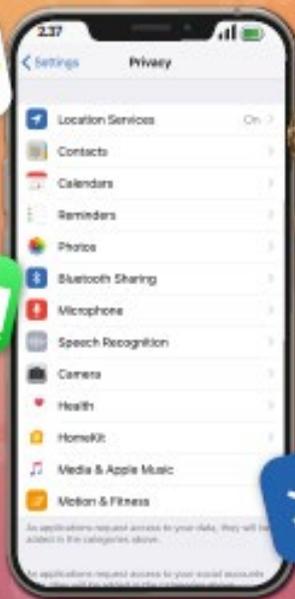
Thank you

Sarah Hodges (Safeguarding Lead)

Shaheed Sharif (IT Systems and Network Manager)

How to Set up PARENTAL CONTROLS for APPS iPhone

Apple devices come with built-in apps already available: Mail, FaceTime and Safari, for example. However, you can choose which apps and features appear on your child's device and which ones don't. You can also manipulate the features in Game Centre to enhance your child's safety and privacy when playing games, as well as blocking iTunes or App Store purchases if you wish.



How to Restrict Built-in Apps/Features

- 1 Open Settings
- 2 Tap Screen Time
- 3 Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
- 4 Tap Allowed Apps (you may need to toggle this to 'on' at the top)
- 5 Enable or disable the apps you wish to appear (or disappear) on your child's device

How to Restrict Game Centre

- 1 Open Settings
- 2 Tap Screen Time
- 3 Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
- 4 Tap Content Restrictions (you may need to switch the toggle at the top to the 'on' position)
- 5 Scroll down to Game Centre
- 6 Choose between Allow, Don't Allow, or Allow with Friends Only in the settings for each feature

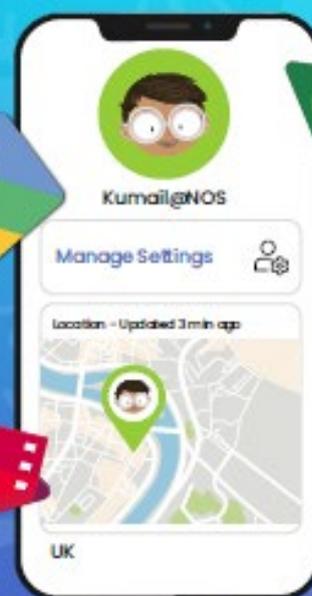
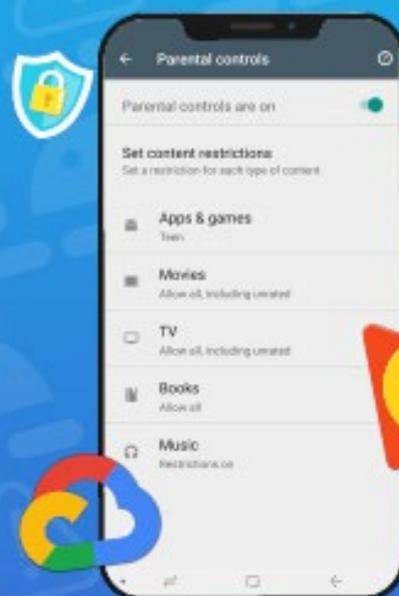
How to Restrict iTunes & App Store Purchases

- 1 Open Settings
- 2 Tap Screen Time
- 3 Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
- 4 Tap iTunes & App Store Purchases
- 5 Select Allow or Don't Allow for each feature (you can also lock these settings with a password)



How to Set up PARENTAL CONTROLS for APPS Android Phone

On Android phones, restricting access to particular apps usually requires going to Google Play. From there, it's fairly easy to navigate your way through the settings to manage the parental controls and authentications relating to any apps on the device. These features can prevent your child from downloading or buying anything unsuitable for their age. Updated versions of apps or games that your child has already installed may occasionally contain something inappropriate, so we've explained how to stop those, too.



How to Block App Downloads (This Also Disables In-app Purchases):

- 1 Open Google Play Store
- 2 Tap the profile icon in the top right
- 3 Tap Settings
- 4 Scroll down to the Family section and tap Parental controls
- 5 Toggle 'Parental controls are off' to 'Parental controls are on'
- 6 Create a PIN and tap OK
- 7 Confirm your PIN and tap OK again
- 8 Tap Apps & Games
- 9 Set the age limit you wish to set
- 10 Tap Save to apply your changes

How to Stop Auto-updates

- 1 Open Google Play Store
- 2 Tap the profile icon in the top right
- 3 Tap Settings
- 4 Tap Auto-Update Apps
- 5 Select 'Don't auto-update apps' and then tap Done

Restricting Apps Through Google Family Link

- 1 Open Google Play Family Link for parents
- 2 Tap the three horizontal lines in the top left
- 3 Select your child's account
- 4 Tap Manage
- 5 Tap Controls on Google Play
- 6 Tap Apps & Games
- 7 Select the age limit you wish to set



Microtransactions Parent Guide

A quick guide to what you need to know



What are microtransactions?

Microtransactions are **real payments for virtual items**, usually occurring in free-to-play games. These can either be purely **aesthetic** or help **improve in-game performance**.

Loot boxes – virtual treasure chests you **pay to open** in-game – are one of the most popular forms of microtransactions. Players don't know what is in the chest they purchase until after they open it.

What are the risks?

Microtransactions have been criticised for **promoting gambling behaviour in children**. Often the contents are aesthetic improvements, with **no real value for the game**, which encourages players to buy another box to try and get a particular item they want.

Many have **questioned the ethics** of this, as games relying on microtransactions are often **advertised to children** who are more susceptible to this kind of marketing.

Young children may **keep buying in order to keep up with friends** also playing, and may not be fully aware that they are paying **real money for items**.

Microtransactions pose a particular problem for games where it is very **hard to succeed without making additional payments**. For example, success in EA's Sports Fifa Ultimate Team (FUT) largely relies on spending in-game.

What else should I do?

Making the occasional in-game purchase is no bad thing. However, make sure that **your card details aren't saved** on the device your child is using to stop bills from racking up.

The recently released **Age Appropriate Design Code** goes some way to **protecting children from overspending on microtransactions**. The new code requires all games to no longer use '**nudging techniques**' – such as putting the 'purchase' button in overtly positive language or visuals.

Some **gaming companies** – for example Nintendo – have also started to **disclose the likelihood** of getting a high-value item from a loot box. Knowing the chance is very small should **stop children from spending too much**.

Make sure you continue to **talk to your child** about the concerns around in-game microtransactions. Encourage them to **think carefully** about what they spend money on, and help them identify when a game might be **manipulating them** into making a purchase.