



Thorplands Primary School and Nursery



Internet Safety Newsletter

22/10/2021

Parent Zone have developed the app 'Meet Ollee' who is a virtual friend that helps your child think about how they're feeling.

Meet Olee is aimed at 8-11 year olds and their parents.

<https://parentzone.org.uk/Olee>



**Discover Ollee: your
virtual online friend**

childline

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME

Call 0800 1111

PlayStation

Does your child have a PlayStation? We've put together a few pointers to help keep your child safe whilst online. We would always recommend that you check the age ratings of any games your child is playing/wishes to play to ensure they are appropriate and also spend time with your child playing on their games console so you can monitor what they are doing and who, if anybody they are interacting with. This will also lead to more open conversations.

PlayStation Network rules

Playstation have created the PSN Rules for children to read specifying what players aged 7-17 need to know before going online with PlayStation:

<https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/legal/psn-rules/>

Block Players

Show your child how to block players should they need to:

<https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/block-players-psn/>

Report inappropriate behaviour

Show your child how to report any inappropriate content/conversations: <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/ps5-report-behaviour/>

Parental Controls

Make sure you set up appropriate parental controls (as well as any additional settings that are offered within any games your child is playing). Parental settings on a PS include features such as restrict communication with other players and setting spending limits.

PS4: <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/ps5-parentalcontrols-spending-limits/>

PS5: <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/ps4-parentalcontrols-and-spending-limits/>

Our top tips for keeping kids safe while gaming

1. Agree some rules around gaming

Gaming is a fun way for kids to relax and stay entertained outside of school but it's important to agree rules to keep them safe whilst gaming. These could include which games are safe to play, who they can play with, where they can use their devices at home or how long they can play for.

For example, you might agree with them they can play in the main family rooms at the weekends with their school friends. Different rules will work for different families but often work best when agreed together as a family. That way your child can share things like how long each game lasts which is helpful to know when agreeing time limits.

3. Check the age ratings

It's important to check the age rating of a game before you let your child play it. These can usually be found on the official site or on the app store it was downloaded from.

Record high number of recorded grooming crimes lead to calls for stronger online safety legislation

Online grooming crimes recorded by police jumped by around 70% in the last three years reaching an all-time high in 2021.

2. Get to know some of the most popular games and gaming sites

Check out our [Net Aware reviews](#) to familiarise yourself with your child's favourite games and for information on how to set up parental controls to keep them safer.

You might also want to check whether the device your child is using has any additional safety settings. Xbox has guidance for parents on <https://www.common sense media.org/blog/parental-controls-xbox-one> to help you manage how long your child spends on the device. Here are some links to guidance for some other brands:

[Apple](#)
[Samsung](#)
[Nintendo](#)
[PlayStation](#)

4. Talk to them about who they're talking to

For lots of kids gaming is a way they can stay connected with friends. While playing games with other people is a more sociable way to be online, it's important to check in regularly with your child about who they're talking to.

Lots of gaming platforms have chat functions that let you to talk to people you don't know. Make sure to check the communication features on the games your child plays and explore the safety features available.

We would recommend they only chat to friends they have actually met, like their school friends or people they know from other offline activities.

If it's a game your child has been playing for a while you might want to ask them whether they've joined any new chats or forums. Have a conversation with them about the types of things they're discussing and what is appropriate to share.

Make sure you check in with your child regularly about who they're talking to on their favourite games. Remind them that conversations should only be about the game, and if someone starts asking them other questions or suggests they speak using another app like [Snapchat](#) or [Instagram](#) they should tell you.

TIPS TO STAY SAFE ONLINE

There are lots of things you can do to keep yourself safe online.

- **Think before you post**
Don't upload or share anything you wouldn't want your parents, carers, teachers or future employers seeing. Once you post something, you lose control of it, especially if someone else screenshots or shares it.
- **Don't share personal details**
Keep things like your address, phone number, full name, school and date of birth private, and check what people can see in your privacy settings. Remember that people can use small clues like a school logo in a photo to find out a lot about you.
- **Watch out for phishing and scams**
Phishing is when someone tries to trick you into giving them information, like your password. Someone might also try to trick you by saying they can make you famous or that they're from a talent agency. Never click links from emails or messages that ask you to log in or share your details, even if you think they might be genuine. If you're asked to log into a website, go to the app or site directly instead.
- **Think about who you're talking to**
There are lots of ways that people try to trick you into trusting them online. Even if you like and trust someone you've met online, never share personal information with them like your address, full name, or where you go to school. [Find out more about grooming.](#)
- **Keep your device secure**
Make sure that you're keeping [your information and device secure.](#)
- **Never give out your password**
You should never give out your password or log-in information. Make sure you pick strong, easy to remember [passwords.](#)
- **Cover your webcam**
Some viruses will let someone access your webcam without you knowing, so make sure you cover your webcam whenever you're not using it.



<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>