



HIGHFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Marsh Lane, Farnworth, Bolton, BL4 0AP

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Does your child have any of these apps on their phone / tablet or ipad?



musical.ly



ROBLOX



YELLOW

Please be aware that Manchester Evening News has just this week published an article warning over 'naked characters' in children's app Roblox. In addition to this there are other concerns with the above online apps regarding privacy concerns, location sharing and the ability for strangers to make contact with children without being a 'friend'.

Many children are reluctant to discuss their own concerns over safety when using these apps since they worry they may be banned from using their favourite games/apps, but as parents it is important that you are aware of the age requirements for these apps because sadly some adults use these apps as a means to create fake profiles in order to groom children. Many of these apps have 13+ age requirements. If your child is on any of these, we urge you to check their privacy settings and monitor their use carefully, considering what content they may be seeing and who may be able to make contact with your child directly. There are reports across the country of children being asked to share images and private information on some of these apps.

How to set Parent Controls

Parental controls are designed to help protect children from inappropriate content they may come across online, such as pornography. These controls can be used to limit access to only age appropriate content, to set usage times and to monitor activity.

I know how difficult it can be to keep track of what apps, games and website children are using and appreciate that the constant creation of new sites and apps makes it very difficult to monitor. However, the worrying fact is that many young children are putting themselves into danger with the use of public sites that do not protect privacy and can be highly inappropriate or unsafe for children, if not monitored carefully, or if used below the age requirements.

As part of school internet safety lessons this week, our teachers share tips and advice about keeping safe online, but we are aware that some children may not choose to follow these suggestions when at home and can often put themselves at risk by communicating with strangers, sharing personal information or even photos/videos, in order to get 'likes' 'shares' or 'follows'.





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Since it is Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 6th February, I would like to take the opportunity to encourage you to chat to your children to find out about the apps, sites and games they are accessing. We know that there are many apps and sites that have been in the news because they are deemed unsafe and can make children very vulnerable to grooming. Whilst this is a difficult subject, we feel that it is our shared duty to educate children about the dangers if we are to protect them from harm. Please visit the sites below for some helpful tips about simple steps that will reduce the risks.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice>

The NSPCC have also created a helpful guide to the most popular children's apps, websites and online games, so please take a look and check which ones your child accesses.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/?order=popularity&category=Gaming#>

I would also like to take the opportunity to encourage your support in making our school blogs successful - comments from parent on our class blogs can give the children great inspiration and confidence. It is fantastic for the children to know that they have a real audience and that their learning is valued. If you can spare a minute to comment on your child's class blog from time to time the children would be thrilled to know your thoughts! If you haven't visited in a while, all our class blogs can be accessed via <https://blog.highfield.bolton.sch.uk/>

You can also follow us on twitter at @HighfieldBolton

At Highfield we are committed to promoting the safe and responsible use of the internet and as such we would like your support in ensuring all of our pupils are safe online.

We hope you find the above links useful and are grateful for your support in keeping the pupils safe.

