

Online Safety Newsletter #3

#WakeupWednesday

Smartwatches / Fitness trackers



Check what the smartwatch allows your child to do and if available, set appropriate restrictions. Talk to your child about the different settings and if you have, why you have set up the restrictions.

What are the risks?

- Some smartwatches allow you to take photos. It is important to talk to your child about appropriate behaviour when taking and sharing photos. Once a photo is shared, they lose control of it.
- Some smartwatches have internet access with the ability to download apps. You need to be aware of the potential of in app purchases and viewing upsetting content.

Depending on the brand of smartwatch, you may be able to set up parental controls for example to restrict content and prevent purchases. More information about Apple Watch parental controls can be found here:

<https://support.apple.com/en-gb/guide/watch/apd54d0a51fb/watchos>

As always, ensure your child knows to talk to you or another trusted adult should they see anything inappropriate or that worries them whilst using their device.

Many schools discourage or do not allow the use of smartwatches – check your child's school Acceptable Use Policy as this will tell you if they are allowed in school.

Further information

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/digital-family-basics-smart-watches-fitness-trackers>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/tech-guide/smart-toys-and-wearable-gadgets/#smart>



Supporting young people with SEND online.

The internet can be a great place, but we need to be aware of the risks involved with being online. For children with SEND, they may encounter further challenges and therefore additional support may be required. There is a lot of tailored information available to parents and carers and the following links are a great starting point:

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-families-children-with-send/>
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/inclusive-digital-safety/advice-for-parents-and-carers/supporting-children-with-send/>
- <https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/supporting-young-people-with-send-online/>

Among Us!



What is Among Us?

Among Us is free to download and is rated 9+ by the App Store due to infrequent/mild horror/fear themes and infrequent/mild cartoon or fantasy violence. You play with 4 – 10 players whose task is to prep their spaceship by completing a series of tasks. However, one of the crew is an imposter who is trying to sabotage the game and kill the other crew members.

What do I need to be aware of?

In-app purchases - In app purchase are available priced from £1.99 - £2.99.

Play privately – games can either be played publicly or privately. To just play with people you know, set it to “private” and share the room code with them (this is the safer option).

Chat facility - If your child is playing a ‘public’ game (or even in a private room with people they don’t know) then due to the chat facility, they may meet and chat with people which always creates an element of risk.

Inappropriate behaviour - If someone is being rude, then only the host can ban that player from the room so you are reliant on the host.



Parental Controls

There is the ability to censor chat to filter bad words out (although there may be words that get through the filter)

Further information

You can read more about Among Us here:

- <https://www.common sense media.org/game-reviews/among-us>
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/is-among-us-multiplayer-game-safe-for-children/>

