

GOLDTHORN E-SAFETY

This issue's focus:

GAMING

What is E-Safety?

E-Safety is staying safe online.

What is gaming?

Gaming means something done for fun or amusement

What is online gaming?

There are four types of game:

- **simple, short games** like Candy Crush or Angry Birds;
- **creative games**, solving puzzles or building worlds such as Minecraft;
- games that need **strategy and skill** to play, like chess;
- **adventure games** that explore different worlds and conflicts such as Fortnite.

How are online games played?

Children act as players and can play games on consoles, apps or websites, mobiles, tablets, computers, iPads, smart speakers, VR headsets and smart watches

Why do children play games?

Children play games for various reasons these include:

Being social – children enjoying play together online

Feel sense of achievement – enjoy the competitiveness and challenges with other players

Develop creativity through role play and explore as different avatars and like to 'escape' to the virtual world

Games are developed to **entertain** children to have fun

What are the risks of online gaming?

- Children can easily get **addicted** to online gaming
- Having contact with **strangers**
- Children being **inactive** – children are spending too much time being seated

USEFUL WEBSITES

ABOUT ONLINE

GAMING:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-gaming-advice/>

UK Safer Internet Centre

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/blog/gaming-resources-for-parents-and-carers>



<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/article/gaming/>

As parents, what can we do protect the children?

Make sure the games are **age appropriate**.



13 years+



7 years+



7 years +



13 years+



17 years+



18 years+

Protect your child at home – What can I do?



Things to do

Set digital boundaries

Use a family agreement to set rules on what they can play, when and how long for to help them strike a healthy balance between gaming other activities they do.

Use reviews and sites to pick appropriate games

Read parents and expert reviews of games they are interested in to help you choose the right games for them to play.

Encourage them to play in shared spaces

This is a simple way to stay engaged in what they are doing while gaming and step in if you feel something's not quite right.

Set privacy settings and learn how to report in-game abuse

Make it a habit to review their privacy settings on their account and teach them where to report in-game abuse so they can take action if they feel concerned.