autumn 2024 Online Safety Newsletter

**New Technology**

During the festive period many of our students may receive new technology or related games. It is important to set appropriate parental controls.

**Games and Consoles**

* Check the PEGI rating
* If the game allows your child to communicate with others, then adjust or disable the settings appropriately
* On the device itself, set up applicable controls such as restricting spending limits and managing who they can communicate with. Here are some helpful links:
* **Xbox: https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/family-hub**
* **PS5: https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/ps5-parental-controls-spending-limits/**
* **Nintendo Switch:** [**https://www.nintendo.co.uk/Hardware/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls-1183145.html**](https://www.nintendo.co.uk/Hardware/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls-1183145.html)

**Tables and Smart Phones**

With a new device it is important to set up parental controls to prevent purchases, restrict content viewed and adjust privacy settings. It is essential to check the age rating of apps your child has requested. Parental controls are important to help provide a safer experience for your child by reducing/preventing access to inappropriate content, cyberbullying, communication with strangers and restricting purchases. More information can be found:

**iPhones/iPad:** https://support.apple.com/en-gb/105121

**Android Device:** <https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738>

<https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/parental-controls/>

 

**The ‘Add Everyone’ Explicit WhatsApp Group**

The INEQE Safeguarding group have issued an alert regarding a WhatsApp group known as ‘Add Everyone.’ Find out more here:

<https://ineqe.com/2024/10/31/safeguarding-alert-add-everyone-whatsapp-group/>



**Talkie AI App**

This app is rated as 17+ by the App store and 12+ by Google Play. Talkie is an AI chatbot app where users can use the app to create and interact with AI characters. This app includes in app purchases ranging from £4.99 - £49.99. Talkie does offer a Teenager Mode; however, the content still may not be appropriate for our students due to the harmful content and risk of online strangers. The review below explains the app in more detail, but also exposes the risks of the app:

https://www.bark.us/app-reviews/apps/talkie-app-review



**Spending Time Online**

Over the festive period there is an increase in the use of devices and consoles. The NSPCC have published six tips to help you improve your family’s online wellbeing. They also provide you with a guide on how to talk to your child about what they are doing online as well as a quiz that you can play together. You can find our more here:

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

 