**ST MARY’S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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Dear Parent/ Carer,

It has come to our attention in Internet Safety week that many of the children in KS2 are playing Roblox. Although Roblox has taken some precautions to enable user safety when an account is created, it is not always clear how further security enhancements can be made.

At St Mary’s, we believe that Internet Safety is vitally important with the ever-changing technology and greater capabilities to access the internet from anywhere on multiple devices.

Therefore, we have created this short guide for parents to further inform your understanding of Roblox and additional security measures that you may want to enable to ensure that your child is safe when playing.

**What is Roblox?**

Roblox is a gaming platform where multiple players interact and play together online. The site has a collection of games aimed at 8-18 year olds, however players of all ages can use the site. Roblox is currently available on PC, phone, tablet and Xbox One.

Every game on Roblox is created by users, and there are a wide variety to choose from. These can vary from delivering pizzas, to roaming a kingdom as a medieval knight, to even starring in a fashion show. This variety is one of the reasons that Roblox is so popular with young people.

**Communication: How can users communicate with others?**

Whilst the games are aimed at 8-18 year olds, there are no age restrictions. This means both adults and young people can play and communicate with each other on the platform.

All games are multiplayer and include a written chat feature, which is visible to players within each individual game. Users can also make and receive friend requests during gameplay and this means that they can chat to each other outside of the game. **There is however an option to disable this.**

**Content: What content is available that might not be suitable for children?**

The Roblox Studio is a section where players use their imagination and skills to create their own games and share these with others. The ability to create and play games can be very appealing to young people who like to create the content they see online.

However, because content is user-generated it can mean that some games might not be appropriate for young children. For example, whilst the graphics are not very life like, some of the games feature weapons and blood.

**Costs: How can children accidentally run up costs?**

By creating games, users can earn Robux, the in-game currency. You can also buy Robux in the game. Players can spend money on items, such as membership to the Builders Club. .

If game creators attract players and in-game adverts, they can earn a lot of Robux, which they can convert into real money. To do this, players must be over the age of 13, have paid for Roblox’s premium subscription, and have access to a Paypal account. This means that younger players would need to talk to an adult to be able to exchange their Robux for real money.

### Top tips for parents

Whatever gaming sites your children use, our advice remains the same. It is important to have a conversation with your child about the sites they use and carry on having open discussions. This will encourage them to come to you with any concerns they may have.

1. **Stay engaged and have regular conversations**
2. **Help them understand the importance of personal information**
3. **Set rules around spending money in games**
4. **Encourage them to tell you about concerns.**
5. **Make use of the safety features available**

**Block and report**:
Make sure your child knows how to find and use the report and block functions. Use the[**Roblox how to make a report page**](https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/203312410)([https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/203312410)](https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/203312410%29) to learn how to do this.

**Safety settings:**
Set up the parental controls that are right for your family. You can also **disable chat**, set up the Parent PIN and use the Account Restrictions within Roblox.  (<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/203313120-Safety-Features-Chat-Privacy-Filtering> )

**Settings for under 13s:**
There are additional safety features for under-13s , so it’s worth checking your child’s account is registered with the correct age. Players under the age of 13 have a <13 symbol next to their username on the game at all times, however this is not displayed to other players.

For more detailed instructions and guidance on how to use the safety features of Roblox [**visit the Roblox website.**](https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/203313120-Safety-Features-Chat-Privacy-Filtering)

 Many thanks

 Mr King

 Online Safety Lead