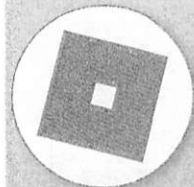


What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

ROBLOX



With more than 150 million users worldwide, Roblox is one of the most popular video games of recent times. Roblox allows users to create their own gaming experiences using Roblox Studio: building levels and games then allowing other people to play them. Similarly, players can play each other's creations, either on their own or with other people online. While it's a tool that can help foster creative thinking, Roblox is also intermittently in the news amid concerns over young users' safety.

No Age Rating



Roblox is rated 7+ by PEGI, but the platform itself doesn't have a minimum age requirement. It does ask for a date of birth when registering, but this can be easily fabricated. The sheer quantity of games available on Roblox means that some will fall into teen/adult categories. Users can also interact with each other freely – and the game has, historically, attracted scammers, griefers and online predators.

In-App Purchases



Robux is the in-game currency used to buy things like special outfits or emotes, and to play certain sections of the game. A subscription service (costing £4.99 per month) called Roblox Premium offers more privileges and more in-game currency. Robux can also be purchased in batches, for up to £4.99. Children can easily pay for these, or purchase a membership, without realising it.

Online Predators

Roblox's developers aim to maintain a safe place for children; they employ human moderators for their players' protection. But there will, sadly, always be individuals who try to bypass these safeguards so they can chat to children and attempt to communicate outside the game. Anyone asking for your child's personal information or to talk privately should be blocked and reported.



Chat Functionality

Users can join group chats with almost anyone through the Chat & Party function. While the chat has some filters, predators still try to find ways around these to prey on young children. There have been recent reports of adults pretending to be children, attempting to groom younger players and encouraging them to chat privately in an unmoderated environment away from the game.

ODers

An 'ODer' (online dater) joins Roblox to find someone to 'date' online. While there's nothing inherently wrong with finding love on the internet, it becomes an issue in a space that's populated by children and young teens, like Roblox. Online dating is against Roblox's community guidelines, but certain player-built games on the platform are specifically for 'ODers' and should be avoided by children.

Advice for Parents & Carers

Take Note of Ratings



Recent press reports drew attention to Roblox's issues with potentially offensive content. Some players were using Roblox Studio to create games featuring nudity, sexual activity and extreme political views. In response, Roblox is introducing a ratings system which will rank content by age appropriateness, with clear warnings if a game is not suitable for younger players.

Disable Messages



It's advisable to block all messaging if you have concerns over your child's safety. If they're playing with friends they know in real life, encourage them to chat in another way (like on the phone), so you know exactly who they're talking to and how. Accounts can be tweaked to allow messages from specific groups of people, such as friends or users that your child follows.

Encourage Creativity




It could prove a little too complex for younger children, but Roblox Studio is a great place to start learning the fundamentals of game design. Many budding developers have created Roblox games which have become popular among the community. There are plenty of tutorials on making games on sites like YouTube. You never know, your child's creation might be the next big thing!

Meet Our Expert




Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for several years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, IGN and GAMINGbible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.

Set Parental Controls



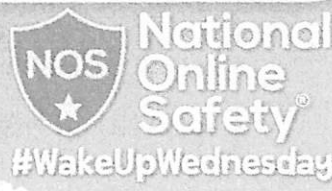
Roblox has controls that allow parents to moderate who their children can talk to and which games they can play. To enable these, add your email address to your child's account through the Security menu, and create a secure PIN to stop settings being tampered with. Then head into the Privacy menu where you can apply moderation to in-game chat, personal messages, invites and more.

Block and Report



To report players in a game, find the Roblox symbol on screen (or the 'Settings' button on some devices). Identify the offending player and click the flag icon. Clarify why the player is being reported by choosing a reason from the list. If you think a particular game is inappropriate, you can also flag it for a moderator to check by following the same steps but selecting 'Game' instead of 'Player'.

<https://www.roblox.com/parents/>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-55111111>



West Meadows Weekly

#AimHighSucceedBeHappy – Friday 30th April 2021

www.westmeadows.org.uk



Follow us @WMPPrimary



Dear Families,
 Another super week in school with lots going on. We had a visit from our new Headteacher Mr. Walls and he was extremely impressed with all things West Meadows; he can't wait to start. We had the school photographer in school to take individual and school family shots. I hope that you are pleased with the results as the children looked fantastic.
 We had our half termly Governors Meeting too on Monday. I would just like to thank this special group of people again for the support given to me and their help in driving our lovely school forward; the time they commit is huge and I love working with them. They are a crucial body that have the children's best interests at heart at all times.
 Well done to Year 5 for the excellent reports I have received on their progress in swimming. Some previously nervous children are now thriving in the water. The benefits of water safety are pretty obvious and I am so pleased that they have responded so well to the staff at Hoyland Leisure Centre.
 Staying with sport, we have held Assemblies with Dean Smith from Yorkshire Cricket Board which have been centred on girls becoming interested in cricket. Rockingham Cricket Club have a girls only program set up. As the best game in the world, and of course the best county in history, please encourage our children to have a go. Girls' sport is moving rapidly and cricket is no different. Have a try!
 I hope you enjoy the long weekend. On the back of this note I've included some tips on Roblox to follow. Stay safe and have a wonderful weekend. Enjoy the final of the snooker!
 #AimHighSucceedBeHappy
 Daniel Wood (Headteacher)

Class Attendance	%
EYFS 1 30 Hours	97.5%
EYFS 1 AM	97.7%
F2	96.6%
Year 1	98.6%
Year 2	92.5%
Year 3	99.7%
Year 4	96.8 %
Year 5	94.2%
Year 6	98.7%
This week's winners	Year 3
School Attendance Target for the Year:	97%
School Attendance this week:	96.5%
School Attendance this year:	97%

Lunch Menu	
Mon	School Closed – Bank Holiday
Tue	Sausage Yorkshire Pudding Mashed Potato
Weds	Cheese & Tomato Pizza
Thurs	Roast Pork Stuffing Mash potato
Fri	Fishcake and Chips

Diary Days	
Mon	• School Closed – Bank Holiday
Tue	• Y3/Y4 Cricket Club
Weds	• Year 5 Swimming • Y3/Y4 Netball Club
Thurs	• Y5/Y6 Football Club
Fri	• Y5/Y6 Cricket Club

The Maestro on Music - @WMPPrimaryMusic
 Please practice our new school anthem – Together we'll be Ok. We love this one. Cannon and Ball on Youtube will provide the inspiration.

Grange on Games - @WMPPrimarySport
 Many thanks to Deano from Yorkshire Cricket for his assemblies this week. Girls – give the great game a go!

IMPORTANT DATES

Mon 7th June – Family Photos with non-school aged children
 8am – 9am
 Tues 22nd June & Weds 23rd June – Y6 at Kirk Balk - Transition

PE Days	
EYFS 1	Tuesday
EYFS 2	Thursday
Year 1	Monday & Tuesday
Year 2	Monday & Thursday
	Monday & Thursday
Year 4	Wednesday & Thursday
Year 5	Wednesday Swimming & Friday
	Wednesday & Friday