



Fairmead School – Online safety

No. 3 – Roblox (November 2023)

Parent and carers support

Information all taken from

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/parents-guide-to-roblox-and-how-your-kids-can-play-it-safely/>



What Is Roblox?

Roblox is an online game creator system where the majority of the content is created by “amateur” game creators in Roblox studio. These game makers are able to create and publish games to the community using simple tools. And that means they can try ideas that wouldn’t get funded for a commercial release.

These games can then be played by children worldwide, often online together, through a phone or tablet application or a web browser. These mini-games offer a playful way to experience adult-like scenarios in quick competitive rounds played socially.

Roblox games reflect the sort of imaginative play you often find in the playground. One child has an idea about a game to play, others join him or her and the rules slowly change as the group decides how to have fun together. Creators can quickly update and adjust their games with Roblox studio to match the demands of the huge playing community.

As with any online game, there are some dangers to be aware of, though, which we’ll go through now.

Roblox parental controls

There are other **parental controls** that can be used in the game to ensure Roblox is super safe for younger players. It’s worth checking out the **Roblox website** for guidance.

First, it is important that you enter the correct date of birth for your child’s account. This will trigger the appropriate safe-chat with a higher level of filtering. Additionally, this means you will get a separate parent login so you can check up on your child’s interactions.

You should limit games to those curated by Roblox staff as follows:

- Log in to roblox.com
- Click the Gear icon in the top right
- Select Settings then Security
- Enable the Account Restrictions slider

Did you know?

Roblox states that Parental Guidance is recommended because of the amount of user-generated content and includes the following age recommendations on all content on the platform.

All ages: content is suitable for everyone with only mild violence or small amounts of unrealistic blood

9+: content is suitable for everyone aged 9 and older with more instances of mild violence or heavy amounts of unrealistic blood

13+: content is suitable for everyone aged 13 and older with frequent instances of more serious violence and small amounts of realistic blood.

Roblox in-game purchases

Although the Roblox is a free game to play, children are incentivised to make purchases in the game with real money.

Kids can purchase **Robux** for cash which is then spent on equipment and outfits in the games.

Ensure that you are tracking and password-protecting credit cards on your systems, so no unanticipated purchases are made.

All the games work fine without additional content, but at the same time will signpost players to benefits of spending money. This is how game makers make a profit from their creations made on Roblox Studio.



Roblox online interactions

Being an online game means that players in Roblox can interact and communicate with each other in various ways. This can be via voice or written text once friend requests have been made.

It is simple to restrict these interactions on the settings for your account:

- Log in to roblox.com
- Click the Gear icon in the top right
- Select Settings then Privacy
- Restrict interactions via Content Settings and Other Settings

You should note that this doesn't disable friend requests in Roblox. Therefore, it's important to check in on the Friend Requests page on the website to ensure strangers are not being accepted.

Monitoring your child's account

Roblox has several ways to monitor account activity. While logged in, you can view the following histories from their related sections:

- Direct and small group chat (Chat & Party feature found in the lower right corner of the apps). There you can see individual chat histories. This feature is limited to Friends, and Friends of Friends.
- Private message history (Messages)
- Friends and Followers (Friends)
- Virtual item purchase and trade history (My Transactions, browser only)
- Creations such as games, items, sounds, ads...etc (Create, browser only)
- Recently played games (Home, Keep Playing or My Recent)

Roblox police warnings

There has been many news stories, Facebook posts, emails, and school gate chatter about police warnings on nudity and stranger danger in the game didn't originate from Kent Police as has been [widely reported](#).

There is a danger in scaring parents into banning the game and closing down the opportunity for healthy and helpful conversations about appropriate behaviour online. As ever the best way to mitigate any of these risks in your family is to start playing Roblox together and keep devices and consoles in shared family spaces.