



The Online Safety Bill has hit the headlines and this time it's in the debate of protecting Free Speech.

"Legal but harmful" was the title it was given initially. The intention was to make this sort of content something the big media companies had to take down, and then it changed...

Since the discussion began, there was a big concern that the Online Safety Bill would go too far and begin to impede people's right to free speech in the public domain. The term "Legal but harmful" was used. We believe it should have been labelled "Legal AND Harmful" but that is another story entirely.

It has now come out that this entire section of the Online Safety Bill has been removed, to protect free speech. We can understand the argument on both sides of the coin, Our main concern was at the end of this announcement, they were speaking about the OSB being legislation some time in 2024, which we believe is just too late to protect your children today and this is being campaigned against.



WEDNESDAY
21ST DECEMBER
- 8 PM



Decorations & Devices - A Digital World, Safer

Buying a new phone or tablet for Xmas? Discover how to set them up and keep your children safer whilst using them, from 1 to 18 years!



WEDNESDAY
14TH DECEMBER
- 7:30 PM



Christmas & Consoles - A Digital World, Safer

Buying a Playstation, Xbox or Nintendo Switch for Xmas? New Games? Discover how to set them up and keep your children safer whilst gaming.



FallGuys gets a whole new season release, boosting it's popularity and we think it could be a great Christmas Party Game!

Free to play, available on all consoles, Fall Guys is a game any family member can play. It requires relatively little skill, perfectly suitable for Ages 3+ and has healthy competition within. We always want to encourage family members to get involved with their children online as a way of experiencing the online world together positively and we would encourage this Christmas anyone to download, get practicing and play Fall Guys together.
(We are in no way being paid to advertise this game)



All internet users need more protection from self harm content..

It's something that is clearly a topic of focus right now, and there is growing support for action through the Online Safety Bill (OSB) to help protect everyone from the algorithms that currently identify users data and work out who will see what kind of content. In theory, if you're feeling down and depressed one way, the algorithm will work this out through several different measures and promote content to match your mood style on that day, week or month.

[Find out more...](#)





Safer Internet Day is coming!

On Tuesday 7th February 2023, Safer Internet Day takes places Internationally once again and we will continue to support the efforts made by the Safer Internet Centre.

What can you do to get involved?

- We will have a live Q&A session on that evening for parents, more details to follow on that one.
- Search "SID 2023" in google and find resources, mini-games and lots more for how you can interact with your child this Safer Internet Day.
- Won't be around? We believe the "day" is outdated. We tend to go with "Safer Internet Week" but even then, staying safe on the internet should be a regular thing.

Is your school involved? Enquire with your school as to whether they're getting involved. You'll see some new videos come out from the BBC and other reputable companies nearer the time, that can be used in Assemblies, classes or at home.



Do you have your content filters set?

With is being Halloween in just a couple of weeks, the scary films are out in full force. Some aren't as scary as they seem and there is still a lot of research to be done about how effected some children are by them anymore (de-sensitisation).

But do you have your content and account filters set on apps like Amazon Prime, Netflix and even Disney+? If you don't set them, they'll likely be subjected to the trailers which is often enough for the bad dreams, and enticing to watch the whole film without you knowing.

[Find out more...](#)



If Not now...

WHEN?

45% SAID

**THEY SPEND SO MUCH
TIME ON THEIR
DEVICE BECAUSE
THEY'RE**

BORED

52% of CHILDREN believe their **PARENTS
AREN'T** involved in their online activities

75% of **PARENTS** said they **ARE** involved.



NEW Useful Guides

Every month we produce new guides and blogs about important topics. Take a look at these five for this month.



[Fall Guys](#)



[YouTube](#)



[TikTok](#)



[Disney+](#)



[Social Media Setup Tips](#)



The New TikTok Feature

Just as "BeReal" began to rise in popularity as a social media platform, the 'big dogs' introduced similar features to their platforms. For TikTok, it's called "TikTok Now" where once a day,

TikTok will give a user 3 minutes to post a 10 second video or a photo (this is very new), so that whatever they're doing, where ever they are, they're showing their friends and connections what they're doing which in the Social Sphere is promoting more conversations.

Should I be worried?

- We have some concerns about this. The pressure to post, without much thought, opens up the stronger possibility of posting something they regret.
- It goes out to all connections, so not just people they've met. TikTok in particular, people follow each other if they like their content, it's not massively focused on watching the people they know in real life.
- You can see/review all your connections posts. This is almost impossible to monitor and filter so sometimes inevitably there will be content very unsuitable for younger users.

What can I do?

- Talk about where these "Nows" go, help them understand the implications of posting something and it staying on the internet forever.
- If they aren't on TikTok, but want to be because of TikTok Now, we encourage you to stand your ground, especially if they're under 13, the age rating for the app.
- Discuss what pressure can feel like, both positive and negative feelings associated with pressure from others and help them balance those pressures in their mind, to make healthier decisions around their usage.



Have you noticed your child watching YouTube in a different way recently? It's likely YouTube Shorts...

The surge of popularity in YouTube Shorts comes as no surprise. It presents you with shorter videos, at a faster pace.

It's also noticeably similar to TikTok in its format and that is no mistake. Is it the same as TikTok? Conceptually, yes. Content & how content is 'pushed' to you, no.

Should you be worried?

We think this is a natural progression for children watching videos online, they're wanting it faster, in shorter bursts, for a longer period of time. The question we would have for you in your home is, how is it effecting them day by day, in doing other tasks? Socially, behaviours, sleep, hobbies & more. We would have more concern that it's becoming harder to break away from the very thought consuming world of TikTok & YouTube Shorts.

What can you do?

- Encourage regular breaks. You can do this just as part of household routine, so that they come away from the content often. "How often?" we hear you ask, well, this is subjective and there is no concrete evidence to give you but we would suggest every hour there should be a 5 minute break. If the breaks can be made longer, that's great, but they don't have to be.
- Sit with them and watch. Yes, you may think "This is trash" but to them it isn't. Show an interest, talk about it, have conversation and keep building those bridges into their online world on a regular basis.



Xbox Family App

Xbox Family Settings app allows you to never need to touch the console again to check on all the settings. It can now all be done at your fingertips.

Bed times, wake times, game time limits, restrictions on downloading new games, seeing friends list and who they're talking to, setting age restrictions, turning off the mic on a headset... the list goes on, and on, and on. It's made to make your life easier.

We would recommend starting small with the restrictions, and going from there!

Switch Parental Control App

If you're getting a Nintendo Switch for Christmas, or already have one, this is a useful app for you. Switch Parental Controls is a free to download app on your smart phone.

It has less features than regular parental apps, as the capabilities of a Switch are simply less too than a similar console or device.

You can set bed times, wake times, restrictions to downloading games, as well as authorise-only for in-game purchases. You can also review the amount of screen-time they've had on a daily and weekly timeline.



Apple Family Sharing

Niche app, but if you're an 'all apple' family, you can set everyone up in your Apple Family Sharing account. Everyone needs an email created, and to be signed in on their device, with their account, but after this there is very little setup involved.

A big and relatively new feature we like, despite how sad it may feel to have to have this is a setting within ScreenTime that detects nudity on the phone and will alert you as the parent. It won't show you the nudity but it'll tell you what app it was seen on, to prompt a conversation.



IF NOT NOW...

WHEN?

**Register To Participate
In Part 2**



**The report that involved 8,000+ children from
ages 6-16 is now out and ready for all parents
to view and we are on hand to discuss it.**

**Download The
Report**

