

# Online Safety Update - Autumn Term

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*Welcome to the latest Online Safety Newsletter.*

*Recently, across the school, the pupils have been completing a number of different tasks including providing advice on different scenarios and creating advice posters.*

*A few weeks ago, I read a story to the school, during an assembly, called #goldilocks. It retells the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears as a poem which focuses on different areas of online safety. The main focus of the story is how Goldilocks is desperate to increase the number of followers she has and therefore, she starts to do more dangerous activities. It was wonderful to see the reactions of the pupils' faces as the story developed. At the end of the assembly, I asked the pupils to share with me all of the things that Goldilocks had done wrong and the advice they would give her. I was really impressed with the range of answers and the details they gave me.*

*Please remember that you can also find more information by visiting the school website:*

<https://robertdrake.co.uk/about-us/e-safety>

*Regards*

*Mr Chaplin*

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## Essex Police Advice

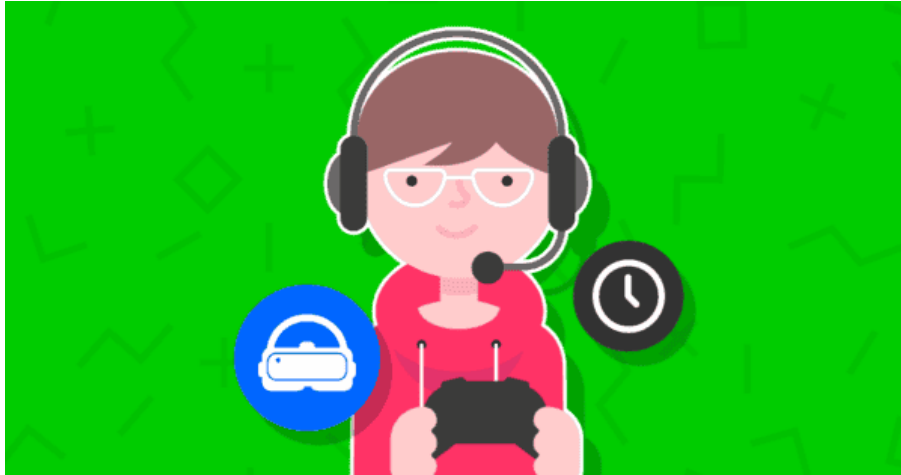


Are you planning on giving your child a new games console, mobile phone, tablet, or computer game this Christmas? Or do you have friends or family who are?

Visit [www.essex.police.uk/sortyoursettings](http://www.essex.police.uk/sortyoursettings) for practical things you can do to help make your child's new device safer when they are online.

#StaySafe

## Fortnite and WhatsApp - Parent Guides



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*Fortnite continues to be one of the most popular games played by children and adults. Internet Matter has produced a guide for parents. This includes information about 'cabin accounts' which are accounts for children under the age of 13. These accounts have certain restrictions applied to them by default, e.g. talking to other players.*

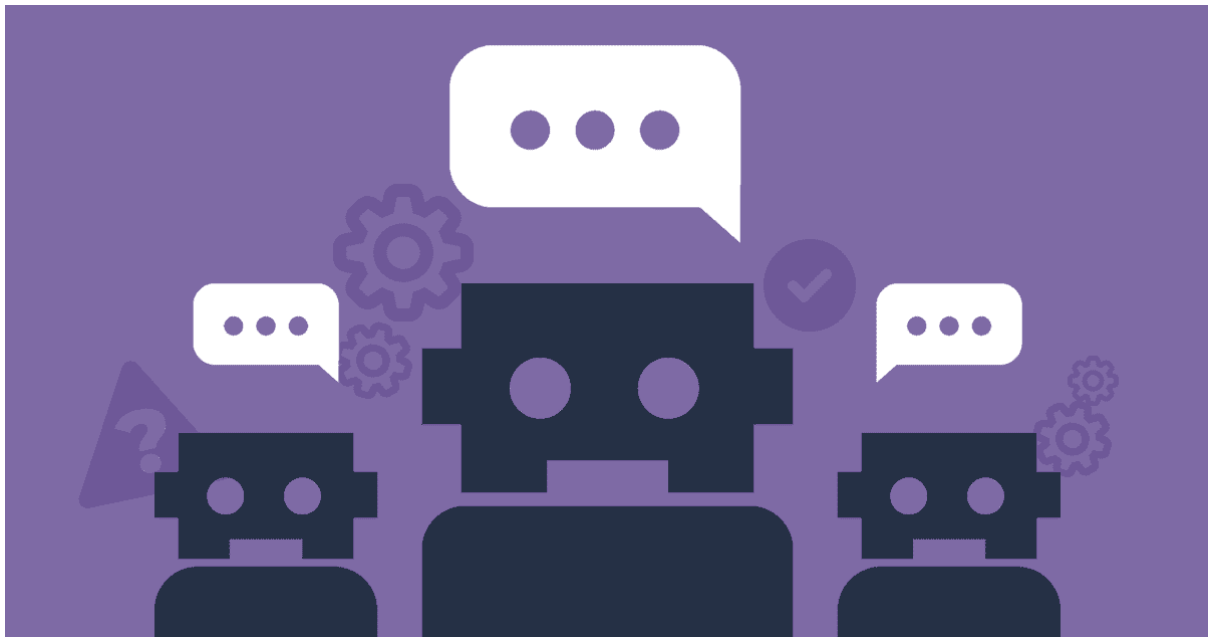
*You can view the guide by clicking [here](#)*

*WhatsApp continues to be the most popular messaging app. Even though it has an age restriction of 16+, its popularity rapidly increases amongst children aged 7-9. Internet Matters has produced a guide to provide parents with advice.*

*You can view the guide by clicking [here](#)*

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## Rumble



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*Recently, in the news, there have been reports of famous people using a video platform called Rumble to release videos. People such as Donald Trump and Andrew Tate are well known for using the platform. It was originally launched in 2013 to rival YouTube. A lot of the videos on the platform contain false information, discrimination and conspiracy theories. Click on the image to view and download a guide produced by National Online Safety*

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## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# RUMBLE



A video-sharing platform designed as an alternative to YouTube, Rumble is the epitome of a 'slow burner' in digital circles: it was initially launched in 2013, but it's only in the last two or three years that it's begun to gain serious traction. Much of Rumble's recent growth has stemmed from its association with Truth Social, the platform founded by former US President Donald Trump. Rumble's content frequently reflects some intense political viewpoints; this can often affect the way it approaches topics and has occasionally caused the platform to venture into controversial territory.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS

The company which developed Rumble is also responsible for hosting Truth Social, the often controversial news and social network founded by Donald Trump. Indeed, Rumble's content often reflects the ideas of one group of US voters, who have embraced it as an alternative to more mainstream social media. Many parents may feel that such an overtly political platform isn't suitable for young people.

#### PROVOCATIVE CONTENT

Rumble prides itself on championing free speech, with its CEO declaring the platform "immune to cancel culture". Many of Rumble's highest-profile content creators – such as Andrew Tate and Hussein Bolt – are well known for sharing opinions which are often described as extreme. While adults might be equipped to treat this content objectively, much of it may not be appropriate for a young audience.

#### INAPPROPRIATE MATERIAL

In very simple terms, Rumble works a little like YouTube but with far fewer censors and restrictions being applied to its content. If age-inappropriate material or potentially harmful misinformation is trending on the platform and being shared among more mature users, there's a distinct possibility that Rumble's algorithm may also recommend that content to a child.

#### CONTROVERSIAL FIGURES

Many of Rumble's best-known accounts are owned by individuals who have previously been banned from other social media platforms. There could, of course, be a variety of reasons behind this – but it almost certainly increases the chances of your child coming across content on Rumble which probably wouldn't be deemed acceptable on other similar platforms.

#### SENSITIVE TOPICS

In recent months, some prominent Rumble influencers have expressed uncompromising views on sensitive subjects such as gun control, abortion, LGBTQ issues and more. With many Rumble accounts tending to display a noticeable political bias, the concern would be that young people using the platform may not always be presented with an impartial perspective on these important and complex topics.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

#### TALK ABOUT POLITICS

Rumble does have a team of moderators, but the nature of the platform means that some permitted content is likely to be controversial and highly subjective. That possibility might make many parents uncomfortable – but if your child does view (or hear about) something provocative on Rumble, it can still provide a useful opportunity to discuss politics at home in a safe, relaxed environment.

#### RESEARCH ALTERNATIVES

No video-sharing platform is totally free from potentially harmful content, of course – but the number of prominent account holders on Rumble whose output has previously been banned from similar services is certainly a cause for concern. If your child is becoming interested in influencer culture or politics specifically, you could perhaps research more family-friendly platforms together.

#### CHECK UP REGULARLY

Like any video-sharing platform, there's a chance that Rumble might suggest inappropriate content for your child. There may be an algorithm issue – or it could be that the recommendations are based on videos they've previously viewed. If your child uses Rumble, you might consider a chat with them about which accounts they follow and what type of content is suitable for their age.

#### DISCUSS IMPARTIALITY

Many prominent Rumble accounts wear their political leanings firmly on their sleeves. As a result, it can be tricky for impressionable young people to appreciate both sides of any given debate. If your child is old enough to use Rumble, you may feel that a discussion of some things they've seen might be prudent – if so, be prepared for some complex (and possibly lengthy) conversations!

#### Meet Our Expert

Jayal Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site Gamezon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechAdvisor.



Source: <https://www.gamesresearch.org/news/2022/06/government-accounts-on-the-rumble-social-media-site-mostly-one-individual-not-organizations/>

## Samsung - Parent Controls



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*Children are becoming younger and younger when they get their first mobile phone. Research conducted by Vodafone demonstrated the dilemma parents face about when to buy their child their first phone.*

*You can view the research conducted by Vodafone by clicking [here](#)*

*One area identified in the research is that parents are unsure of how to keep their children safe when they are on their mobile.*

*There is information about Samsung Kids, which allows parents to restrict apps, calling, texting and screen time amongst other features, available via Internet Matters.*

*To view the information click [here](#)*

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## Fake Calculators



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*Although not a new type of app available, there has been a rise in the number of fake calculator apps that can be downloaded. The app presents itself as a fully working and functioning calculator but when a certain order of buttons are pressed it opens up a screen where pictures and images can be stored. These apps are sometimes referred to as 'hidden vault' apps.*

*You can view more information about fake calculators by clicking [here](#)*

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