

Child safety on YouTube for Parents

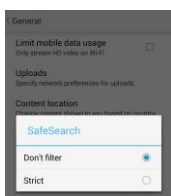
What is the problem?

- You may have seen news reports about inappropriate children's videos on YouTube. These are videos that include cartoon characters or characters from Disney films such as Frozen. However, later on they become violent or disturbing. Such videos can appear in YouTube search results when looking for genuine children's videos. Teenagers, in particular, are actively looking for these videos as they find them "entertaining". YouTube says that such videos will be age-restricted *if they are reported by users*. If this happens they cannot be viewed by anyone under 18.
- There are also videos that contain age inappropriate language or footage. These especially apply to videos uploaded by gamers that show how to play specific games. Often these are videos of age restricted games, for example, Call of Duty, which is an 18 rated game. Often the videos contain audio of the gamers using language that is not a good example to younger children. Again YouTube will *apply age restrictions to these if they are reported by users*.
- Lastly, the comments that users leave on videos can be inappropriate and, if your child is uploading their own videos, this can lead to at abuse that amounts to bullying. Again YouTube provides its own reporting system for users that object to these kinds of comments.

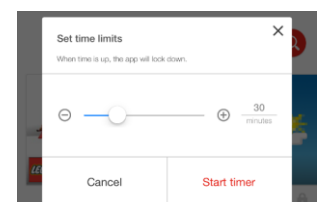


What safety options are there when using YouTube?

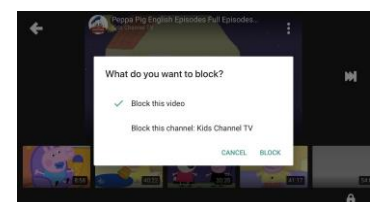
- Have you opted out of the College iPad Home Filtering System? Whilst on the Heathfield Community College network OR whilst using iPads with the Home Filtering System, inappropriate content, including comments, are filtered out. However, the algorithm that does this for us is not perfect and so we cannot guarantee that students will never be exposed to inappropriate content.
- For younger children, the YouTube Kids app **automatically filters out inappropriate content**. However, YouTube also explains that "no algorithm is perfect".
- To help protect your child in YouTube Kids, you can set parental controls and change settings: tap the 'Lock' icon in the bottom corner of any page, enter your passcode and click 'Settings'. You can:



- Turn the search function off, so your child can only see recommended, curated videos under each category on the home screen: toggle 'Search' to off
- Set a timer to limit how much time your child spends on the app: select 'Timer' and use the slider bar or the plus and minus icons to set a time limit, then tap 'Start Timer'



- You can also block videos or channels you don't want your child to watch:
 - Tap the 3 dots ('more') at the top of the video, tap 'Block' and select 'Block this video' or 'Block this channel' to block the whole channel associated with the video
 - Tap 'Block' again, then enter the numbers you see written on the screen, or your custom passcode



What safety options are there on YouTube?

1. **Set parental controls.** An online tutorial can be found at the following URL:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u00yKwGFpS0>
 - **Turn on 'restricted mode'.** This hides videos that may contain inappropriate content. YouTube says that "no filter is 100% accurate, but it should help you avoid most inappropriate content". An online tutorial on how to do this in a web browser and on mobile devices can be found at the following URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yek0Jb0sBg>.
2. **Flag inappropriate videos.** If you think a video or a comment on a video is inappropriate, you can use the 'flagging feature' to prompt YouTube staff to check it and decide whether to block or restrict it. An online video on how to do this is at the following URL:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QilPDZ1vhwg>

How else can I help ensure my child's safety online?

The tips below will help you to set rules for your child about accessing videos on the internet and their online behaviour, and support them to understand the risks and what to do if something happens.

- Stay opted in to the College iPad Home Filtering System.
- Chat to your child about what online videos might not be suitable for them to watch and share
- For younger children, try to have your child in the same room as you when they are using the internet, and discourage them from using headphones
- Regularly check the history of videos they have watched online or create a playlist for them
- Encourage your child to tell you if they see something they find worrying or nasty
- If your child wants to share a video they have recorded, check they get permission from anyone who features in it before they upload it
- Tell your child not to give out any personal information or anything that can identify them, such as a school uniform or street name
- Follow your child's YouTube channel & regularly check comments made on your child's videos.
- Talk to your child about how they could receive nasty or negative comments from other people, and what they should do if this happens
- If another YouTube user posts a video of your child or shares personal information without consent, you can ask for this content to be removed by using YouTube's privacy complaint process

Where else can I go for support?

- [Policies, safety and reporting, YouTube](https://support.google.com/youtube/topic/2676378?hl=en&ref_topic=6151248): https://support.google.com/youtube/topic/2676378?hl=en&ref_topic=6151248
- [Privacy complaint process, YouTube](https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/142443): <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/142443>
- [YouTube Kids parental guide, YouTube](https://support.google.com/youtubekids/#topic=6130504): <https://support.google.com/youtubekids/#topic=6130504>
- The [National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children \(NSPCC\)](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/) has a range of resources for parents on internet safety: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Sources for this factsheet

- This factsheet has been adapted from the one produced by [Safeguarding Training Centre from The Key](https://www.thekeysupport.com/safeguarding), in collaboration with [National Online Safety](https://nationalonlinesafety.com/): www.thekeysupport.com/safeguarding and <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/>
- [YouTube to restrict 'disturbing' children's videos, if flagged, BBC News, 10 November 2017](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-41942306)
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-41942306>
- [YouTube Kids parental guide, YouTube](https://support.google.com/youtubekids/#topic=6130504): <https://support.google.com/youtubekids/#topic=6130504>