

E-Safety Information Supplement - Issue 3

In this third installment of our online publications promoting E-Safety, we will be sharing information on the use of different media platforms in order that your families can access entertainment safely.

In many homes, entertainment for families no longer means sitting in front of the television, watching appropriate programming at set times in the day. Now, there are multiple ways to watch your favourite programmes such as:

- YouTube
- Satellite playback (SKY +, Virgin Media)
- DVD's
- NETFLIX



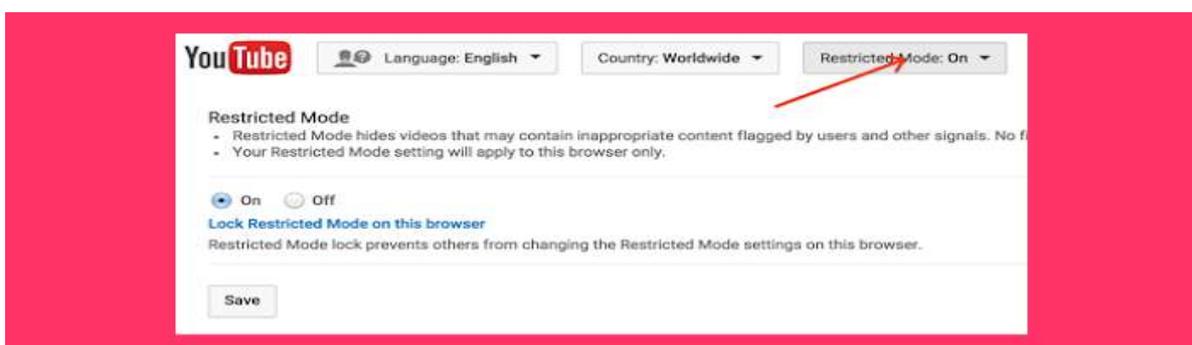
YouTube has become known as an online video system, which is accessible and easy to use. It provides the user with access to an enormous catalogue of video clips from around the world. Smart phones with video facility are becoming more affordable (iPhone, Galaxy etc.). It takes no time at all to take a short video clip and upload it to You Tube where it can be watched potentially by millions!

However, this also poses a risk to young people who are able to access inappropriate and damaging materials. By typing in a single word, your child could access material that they didn't intend to meaning that they could be exposed to: swearing, extreme violence, sexualised content including images, and racism and other forms of hateful prejudice among other things.

YouTube does have regulation and can block or remove video clips, but this often relies on users '**red flagging**' clips to report them. With so much content available, much of which you don't want your children to see, we've put together some guidelines and tips on how to ensure your children enjoy YouTube content in the safest way possible.

- Turn the safety Restriction Mode on
- Only subscribe to channels that you feel comfortable with then create a feed of safe videos
- Watch and enjoy YouTube videos together with your child
- Keep YouTube screens out of bedrooms and only in family spaces
- Avoid allowing children to use headphones

To activate the safe mode on any device that has access to YouTube you need to locate the '**Restriction Mode**' and ensure this is turned on. On a PC or laptop, this is found at the top or bottom of the YouTube homepage, and on the Settings function of a smart phone or tablet. You then have the ability to 'lock' the Restriction Mode.





You can control access to certain maturity levels of Netflix content from the 'Your Account' page under Manage Profiles. Parental control settings must be changed from a computer or mobile browser, and will apply to all devices currently attached to your Netflix account.

Netflix parental controls consist of four maturity levels:

- Young Children - Watch movies and TV shows suitable for all ages.
- Older Children - Watch movies and TV shows suitable for older kids.
- Teens - Watch movies and TV shows suitable for teens.
- Adults - Watch all movies and TV shows, including mature content.



On domestic channels, the programmers respect the 'Watershed' which is the time before which children may be watching television. On Sky or other digital networks, this is not necessarily the case. In addition to this recording functions and playback mean that unsuitable programmes can be watched at any time of the day.

You may think that cartoons, for example, are appropriate for children to watch. However, there are an increasing variety of 'adult' cartoons, such as Family Guy, American Dad and South Park, which are completely inappropriate for young viewers. Studies have shown that watching content that is too mature for a young person to understand is damaging to them and can pressurise them to grow up too quickly and can lead to them being unable to form positive relationships as they grow older.

Therefore, it is important that parental controls (this is usually a PIN accessed via your remote) are in use. The following links take you through the simple steps to set this up.

<https://www.sky.com/help/articles/set-up-parental-controls-on-your-tv>

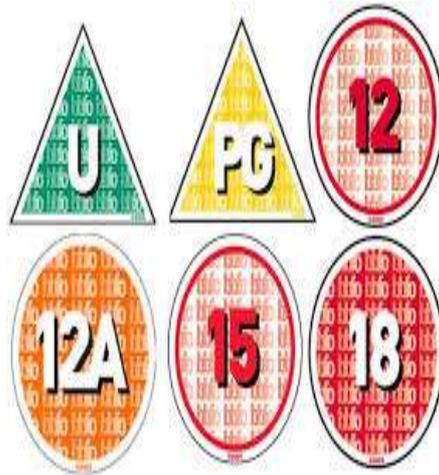
<http://store.virginmedia.com/discover/broadband/your-broadband/protect-family/parental-controls.html>

Films

All films shown in the UK need an age rating by law.

What are the ratings?

The BBFC rate films before they are released in cinemas. These days there are six certificates for films:



In theory, anyone can see a U or a PG, although you and your parents and teachers are encouraged to think carefully about whether a PG film will be suitable for you if you are younger than 8 or 9 years old.

With 12A films you must be 12 or older to go and see them, unless you have an adult with you. It is up to that grown-up to decide that you won't be upset or disturbed by anything you see.

Anyone wanting to release a film, video or DVD for showing in cinemas or watching at home, has to make sure that their film has a BBFC age rating symbol. It's against the law to try and sell videos and DVDs without this. Films that you see at the cinema also have to display the right rating.

These ratings are in place to protect children from harm.

Safeguarding is the school's number one priority. As a parent, the school expects you to ensure that your child(ren) has no access to inappropriate materials including through media such as television, film or on-demand programming. We hope that, by highlighting this issue, you are well-informed to make the right choices for your child.