

Parental Controls

...part of the answer

What are Parental Controls

‘Parental Controls’ is the term given to settings which can be used to limit access to inappropriate content online.

However, it’s important to remember that as parents, all decisions we make in the interests of our children are some form of ‘parental control’!

What sorts of things are we dealing with now?

Children are getting themselves into problems on messaging apps.

They are saying and sending things on messages that they would never dream of saying or showing face to face.

These conversations are then impacting at school.

It's not just our kids...

Sometimes, older children from other schools are 'invited' into chats.

A 14 year old's world is quite different to an 11 year old's world and so our children can find themselves participating in discussions beyond their years.

It's difficult not to panic!!!



Filtering

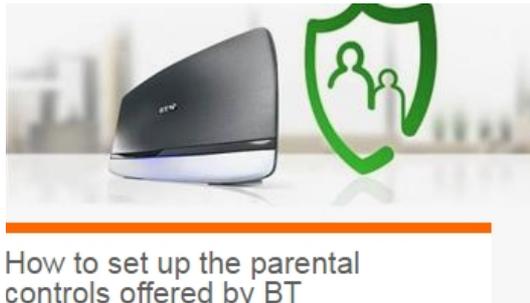
‘Parental controls’ can act as a filter or ‘shield’ to try to prevent harmful or inappropriate online content being seen. They can be activated on your home Internet and should stop most undesirable content being accessed.



Although we don't want to be overprotective and ‘wrap our children in cotton wool (or bubble wrap)’ we do have to take steps to protect our children from harm in all aspects of their lives, including when they are online whether they like it or not!

Your Internet Service Provider

Your Internet Service provider (ISP) should have some form of Parental Control that you can activate on your Internet connection at home.



How to set up the parental controls offered by BT



How to set up the parental controls offered by Sky



How to set up the parental controls offered by TalkTalk

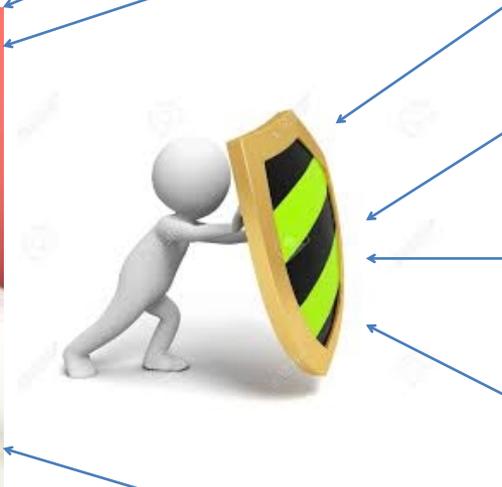
The [Big 4](#)

Click the images for a link to video tutorials



How to set up the parental controls offered by Virgin Media

Filtering – only part of the answer



The news

Informative content

pornography

Social media

Pop ups - adverts

Extreme content

Educational games

'safe' searches

'safe' image search results

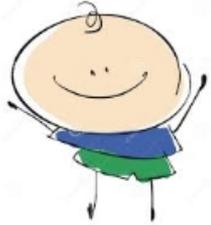
↑
↑
↑
Imessage, What's App,
Instagram

O2 and the NSPCC

O2 and the NSPCC have made a partnership to provide support for parents wanting to set parental controls on devices and to find out more about online safety. You DO NOT have to be an O2 customer to access this support.

- <http://www.o2.co.uk/help/nspcc>
- 0808 800 5002
- You can also visit an O2 Guru in stores...

What filtering cannot stop...



Child A finds inappropriate content on his phone or says something mean about another student.



Child A sends a copy of the content to his friends on a group message



The content is shared once more...



OUT OF CONTROL

Filtering is only part of the answer

What about when your child visits someone else's house? What about when they are with their friends at the park? What about when they are logging onto public wifi? What about when they get sent something via What's App or Imessage by a friend? What about when they go to the library? What happens if a friend gives them their old phone? What about when they turn 18 and can buy their own devices?

How do we prepare our children for this moment..?



So, what are the practical steps parents can take?

Set the ground rules!

Set parental controls on any devices your child has.

Set parental controls on your internet line

Talk to your child about what they are doing online

Snoop

Make your expectations clear of what they should do if they see something inappropriate.

So, what are the practical steps parents can take?

Inform the school if your child experiences or witnesses cyberbullying.

Inform school if your child is exposed to inappropriate material

Don't be afraid to say 'no'

Enjoy spending time on the Internet together, learn from each other!

Think about crossing the road.

When do we allow our children to cross a road without supervision? How do we get to that point?

It isn't without dangers or risks but our children learn to manage them by following some well taught and practised rules.

Balance

It is for parents to decide when their child is ready and responsible enough to have access to devices that can go online.

To give access before they are ready could be as terrifying as allowing them to cross a road before they are aware and able to manage the dangers or risks.

Responsibility

Risk

