growing minds shaping futures

Newtown Primary School Church of England (voluntary controlled)
Queens Road, Gosport, Hampshire PO12 1JD T: 023 9258 4048 E: adminoffice@newtown.hants.sch.uk
www.newtownceprimary.co.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding, we would like to raise important concerns about children's use of online gaming platforms, particularly **Roblox**.

Although Roblox is popular with children and can provide entertainment and creativity, it also presents potential risks that parents need to be aware of. These include inappropriate content, cyberbullying, contact with strangers and, most concerningly, online grooming.

What are the risks?

Children may encounter individuals who pretend to be other children to gain their trust. These individuals may:

- Develop online friendships and gradually build a child's trust.
- Ask personal questions or request photographs.
- Offer gifts, virtual currency or promises of friendship.
- Encourage children to keep conversations secret.
- Attempt to move conversations onto Snapchat, WhatsApp, Discord or other platforms.
- Introduce inappropriate or sexual conversations.

Roblox also contains thousands of user-created games, some of which may include violence, inappropriate language, frightening imagery or adult themes. Age ratings and safety settings are helpful but cannot guarantee that children will never encounter unsuitable content.

What can parents do?

We strongly encourage all parents and carers to:

- Check whether Roblox is appropriate for your child's age and maturity.
- Regularly monitor the games your child plays and who they communicate with.
- Review privacy, chat and parental control settings.
- Restrict contact with strangers and disable chat where appropriate.
- Monitor screen time and online spending.
- Ensure children understand never to share personal information, photographs or passwords.
- Talk regularly about online friendships and the dangers of communicating with strangers.

Please remind your child never to agree to meet someone they have met online or to keep online conversations secret from trusted adults.

Working together to protect our children

If your child receives inappropriate messages or is made to feel uncomfortable online, please listen, reassure them and report the account. Preserve relevant evidence where possible and seek advice if you have concerns. Serious concerns about online child exploitation can be reported to CEOP.

Please remember that **a child may be sitting safely at home, but this does not mean they are safe from the dangers of the online world.**



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Whilst school will continue to educate children about online safety, we cannot monitor their activities outside school. We therefore ask all parents and carers to take an active role in supervising their children's online gaming and communication.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and working together is essential to keeping our children safe.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher
On behalf of the Safeguarding Team

Useful information:

- Roblox Safety: https://about.roblox.com/safety
- NSPCC Online Safety: https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/
- CEOP: https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/
- Internet Matters: https://www.internetmatters.org/

