

Digital Citizenship

Gaming and Internet Safety

Lots of people play games online. You can play games on:

- consoles and computers
- Mobile or tablet apps
- websites.

There are many types of online games.

- Some are simple games you can play on your own.
- Others are multiplayer games with 2 or more people who you might not know.
- You can also talk to people through the game itself, a console network, chat site or gaming forum.
- You can talk through instant messenger, a headset or video chat.
- Some people like to watch other gamers playing on live-streaming sites or on youtube.

Games are a great way to relax and have fun.

But it's important to be careful about what you share online and keep yourself safe.

What are the risks?

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- Not everyone will be nice or the same age as you

Some gamers may say nasty things or try to bully and upset other players. This can be done by people you know or strangers.

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- Some people may use games to try and ‘groom’ children

This is when they try to build a relationship or friendship with a young person to trick or pressure them into doing something they don't want to do.

What are the risks?

- Some games may have content which might upset you

This could include violence, horror, or adult situations.

What are the risks?

- Some people find it hard to stop playing

Gaming may affect the other parts of their life and turn into an addiction.

Bullying in Gaming

Gaming is meant to be fun. It's not ok for other players to be nasty or make you feel bad.

People may bully you in games by:

- saying nasty things or constantly targeting you
- excluding you from playing
- stealing or destroying your online items or creations
- cheating to get ahead
- stealing your identity or sharing your personal information
- hacking your account.

What can you do?

- People who bully others in games often don't know the person they're bullying and will randomly target people.
- If someone is nasty to you, try not to get angry. Instead, try playing with different people or take a break. You may also be able to block or report other players. You might find it helpful to keep a record of the bullying so you can report it.
- It's also important to respect other players and think about how you'd feel in their situation.

KEEPING GAMING SAFE AND FUN

Check the age ratings



Use blocking and reporting



Be careful of in-app purchases



Turn on your privacy settings



Keep personal information safe



Take breaks

