

Salford's Staying Safe Online Update No. 2

This Staying Safe Online update is all about **GAMING**.

There are lots of ways for users to play games online. These include free games, apps on smart phones, handheld consoles and downloadable and boxed games on consoles such as Nintendo Wii, Sony Playstation and Microsoft Xbox.

Here are some handy hints for staying safe when gaming (adapted from Childnet):

Check out the age classifications: the PEGI icon will state what age classification a game has got – these classifications are for good reasons!! More information can be found www.pegi.info

Keep legal: don't download cheat programmes to skip to higher levels or download non-copyrighted games as these can expose you to inappropriate content and viruses!

Keep personal information private: don't share personal information such as your full name and contact details

Use passwords: the stronger the password (upper and lower case letters, numbers and characters) the more secure your accounts

Protect yourself: sign off when you finish playing

Be respectful: treat other gamers fairly and how you would like to be treated

Online friends are still strangers: only meet an online friend if you have a parent/carer with you

Learn how to block and report: if someone is causing you distress there are tools you can use

Take frequent breaks: games can be addictive so take regular breaks and don't stay on for too long a session

Beware of In-app purchasing: it is too easy to run up bills when playing some games online. You can disable in-app purchases on smartphones via your phone settings.

Visit Childnet for more information: <http://www.childnet.com/resources/online-gaming-an-introduction-for-parents>

Remember - keeping **everyone** safe in the online world of the internet and mobile technology is at the heart of Salford's e-safety work. The e-Safety and Anti-Bullying Strategic Sub-Group represents Salford's cross agency Children's Services and partners and leads on strategy and policy providing guidance to its member agencies for keeping everyone safe online.

Please check out the information and guidance provided on:

<http://www.salford.gov.uk/rucybersafe.htm>

<http://www.partnersinsalford.org/sscb>