Roblox/Minecraft – Keeping your child safe online

Dear Parent/Carer,

Please find attached resources as to how to keep your child safe when they are playing Roblox and Minecraft, popular video games with online access that many of our students make use of. The guidance offers you advice on how to monitor your child's communication settings, parental controls, having control over any spending on each game's online store, management over their friends on each game and the amount of screen time they are having whilst playing.

We understand our young people's wish to play video games and to communicate and socialise with their friends. We want to ensure we can all work together to keep our students safe online and to minimise the risks that playing on these games can pose. These include:

- Stranger danger/Risk of grooming – with others from a different location via video/voice/text chat*
- Scams through giving up in game items to other users or by hacking accounts
- Trolling – users deliberately ruining games for other players
- In game purchases without your knowledge
- Cyber-bullying – your child may be deliberately excluded from a game by their friends, or criticised for how they play through verbal, abusive language

** Many popular games have official channels with thousands of members. This puts young people at risk of grooming or online forms of abuse, along with the risk of moving the conversation to other platforms or meeting up offline. You should be aware of this across all online activity.*

For further information on how you can support your child playing safely online and how to reduce the risks involved, please see the NSPCC website: How to Ensure Your Children Stay Safe While Playing Online Games | NSPCC

Please familiarise yourself with the resources attached and if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. T. Truby

Assistant Headteacher