



# SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

SAFEGUARDING EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

## Designated safeguarding Leads

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## Useful numbers

Childline 0800 1111  
Wigan Safeguarding Hub 01942 486262

# Dangers of Roblox

## Why is it such a risk to children?

But additional purchases are not the biggest issue with this game - the social interaction amongst players is. The purpose of Roblox is for players to interact and make friends. This is achieved by wandering around the online world and stopping to talk with other players within an unmoderated chat feature. Like any online multiplayer game, there is little to no control over the types of people or age limits of those playing the game. Despite the fact that strict chat filters can be activated - blocking inappropriate words and phrases - children are still susceptible to being targeted by online predators.

This problem isn't unique to Roblox. Far from it. Throughout the online gaming world, wherever games are marketed to children, online predators lurk. Social games like this are often used as a platform to lure children away from the game and onto other platforms: eg., Facebook, Snapchat and even in some cases Skype. Roblox appeals directly children under 12, easy targets who lack the ability to discriminate between appropriate and inappropriate requests.

The game invites players to explore imaginary worlds of all kinds. Some of these are sexual in nature. One British dad who decided to check out the game his sons were obsessed with was shocked to discover avatars having virtual sex, ABC News reported in 2017.

"The chat function poses a real danger to children playing this popular game," explains ySafe psychologist Jordan Foster, a leading Cyber Expert at Family Zone. "With limited safety measures embedded within the game, children are open prey for predators to communicate with.

"Consider it similar to sending a child out into a real room filled with strangers, with no barriers in place to stop people being able to talk to whomever they like."

## Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)

The Internet Watch Foundation were set up to eliminate on line child pornographic material. The work with Global Partners to:

- Keep up to date with emerging technology
- Have a world wide hotline to report
- Scour the internet and remove any indecent images of children
- Provide data for all Global Partners to use

# Legislation and Guidance Updates

## **Keeping children safe in education (KCSIE) 2018**

This is statutory guidance from the Department for Education. It states that schools and colleges must have regard to it when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The current KCSIE 2016 will be replaced in September this year by the new guidance, which can be found on the gov.uk website.

Changes include:

- More clarity to what should go in an Early Help
- Schools should have more than one emergency contact for all children
- More information on online safety
- More clarity in terms of reporting concerns
- Updates and cross referencing with new legislation on sexual violence between children in schools and colleges
- Restraint involving children with SEND needs

**Governing bodies and senior leaders should ensure that all staff in schools and colleges have read at least part one of this guidance.**

## **Working together to safeguard children 2018**

HM Government have released a new version of Working Together to Safeguard Children, this will come into effect from April this year. Responsibilities of schools and colleges are set out on page 64 of this document which can be found on the Gov.uk website.

## **Sexual violence and sexual harassments between children in schools and colleges 2017**

This is a new piece of guidance issued by the Department for Education. It provides advice on what sexual violence and sexual harassment is, how to minimise the risk of it occurring and what to do when incidents occur, or are alleged to have occurred. It can be found on the Gov.uk website.

## **Training New Staff Only**

A reminder that if you have not already done so please return your completed safeguarding declaration to Alison Bolton. If you are new to the school you also have to complete your online training. (See Carol Brockbank) and the Channel General Awareness Course using the following link. [http://course.ncalt.com/Channel\\_General\\_Awareness/01/index.html](http://course.ncalt.com/Channel_General_Awareness/01/index.html)