



Online Safety Newsletter

January 2021

Dubsmash

Dubsmash is a video editing mobile app where you can make 10 second videos (similar to TikTok). A user can post their 'dubsmashes' to their profile and follow others on it. Dubsmash is available from the App Store or Google Play Store.

You should be 13+ to access Dubsmash, although according to their Terms of Service, users between the ages of 13 and 18 may only use Dubsmash **under the supervision of a parent or guardian.**

Like most apps, Dubsmash allows users to block other users, report inappropriate content and disable comments. Their [help sections](#) provides you with how to achieve this.

Here are some [helpful reviews](#) from other parents about this app.

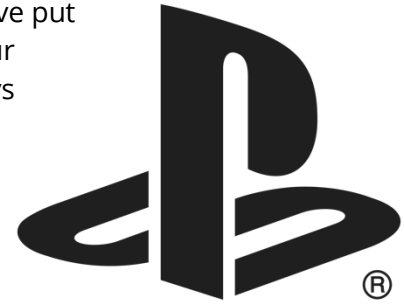
Meet Ollee

Our new virtual living is becoming increasingly difficult for our young generation. Aimed at 8-11 year old's, Parent Zone have developed the app 'Meet Ollee' who is a virtual friend that helps your child think about how they're feeling.

They hope that from this children will be able to learn how to best talk about their feelings and share them with someone they trust.

PlayStation

Does your child have a PlayStation? We've put together a few pointers to help keep your child safe whilst online. We would always recommend that you check the age ratings of any games your child is playing/wishes to play to ensure they are appropriate and also spend time with your child playing on their games console so you can monitor what they are doing and who, if anybody they are interacting with. This will also lead to more open conversations.



PlayStation Network rules

PlayStation have created the [PSN Rules](#) for children to read specifying what players aged 7-17 need to know before going online with PlayStation.

Important features

One of the important features on new technologies is the ability to [block other users](#). This could be very important in keeping your child safe whilst online. If your child finds or is targeted through inappropriate behaviour, [they can report it](#).

Parental Controls

[PS4](#) and [PS5](#) allow you set up appropriate parental controls (as well as any additional settings that are offered within any games your child is playing). Parental settings on a PS include features such as restrict communication with other players and setting spending limits.

[Here is a handy guide PlayStation created on how you can help keep your child safe.](#)

With the launch of the new Xbox Series X and Xbox Series S late last year, we thought it was important to revisit some of the features available to you and address some concerns that you may have. Firstly, Xbox have a great area on their website to support you in [helping your child stay safe and play responsibly](#).

[Xbox Family Settings App](#)

This app is available on both iOS and Android phones. It has been created to give you the ability to manage your child's activities on their Xbox One. The app allows you to manage their friend list and incoming friend requests. Further features are being planned, so look out for those.



[Who is your child talking to?](#)

Lots of games are now played online and incorporate a chat or text element which potentially means your child could be chatting with strangers and may encounter inappropriate language/content and bullying. It is important to talk to your child about who they are talking to online and that they understand that not everybody is who they say they are so they should never share personal information. Keeping devices in family areas can help you keep an eye on who your child is talking to but also makes for great family evening activities, why not join in with them? Make sure they know that if anything is worrying them then they can talk to you or another adult that they trust. Net Aware recently produced [this article](#) about why children like to chat online and what you should be aware of.

Childnet have created a [guide](#) about the world of gaming and what some of things you need to know about such as [online bullying through gaming](#).

[Restrict spending](#)

Did you know that Xbox offer [purchase management tools](#) to help you set spending limits? This is important to know when using the Microsoft Store on Xbox One and Windows 10 devices.



[Parental Controls](#)

Both [Xbox 360](#) and [Xbox One](#) consoles allow you set up appropriate parental controls on the device your child is using (as well as any additional settings that are offered within any games your child is playing). Parental settings include features such as restricting what games can be played and how long your child can play on their console for.

Net aware have written an article about [how you can help keep you children safe whilst gaming](#).