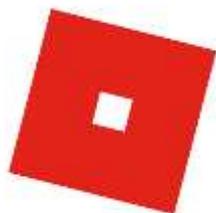# Social Media APP Bulletin

## ROBLOX

Roblox is a user-generated massively multiplayer online social gaming platform, dubbed the 'new minecraft'. In the game, players are able to create their own virtual worlds within the platform, and invite others to join. Activities in the game world include exploring, crafting items, resource gathering, and combat. The game can be played on mobiles, tablets and computers.

A recently added chat facility on the site means strangers can message young players directly and chat to them, with no age verification - with no way to screen contacts or block messages. Players can add other people they meet in the game to their friends list, which can be done while playing. The friend system allows a maximum of 200 friends and infinite followers. Players also have the option to join community groups. After joining, players can then advertise their group, participate in group relations, and set their primary

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**Dad's warning after boy sent 'sickening' messages from strangers on Roblox game**

# Social Media APP Bulletin

**Amino**

AMINO - COMMUNITIES, CHAT, FORUMS, AND GROUPS is an app that lets users access and contribute to communities about a range of subjects, including bands, books, genres, and activities. ... When you tap a community, you can view its description, community guidelines, and the number of registered users in that group.

Like many apps there are risks involved for children as there is a chat facility and obviously would be an ideal platform for grooming to take place.

You can not completely disconnect children from the internet, unless you are going to raise them in the jungles of the amazon; In the world we live in today the technology to bring people closer together is only going to expand, including adding chat or live streaming functions to the majority of apps. No matter how much we try, reality cannot be ignored and the best protection is always to educate children in the dangers as well as the enjoyment these apps can provide.

# Social Media APP Bulletin

## Moviestar-planet

MovieStarPlanet is an online game with a social networking aspect, which is popular with 8-13 year olds. The game allows children to customise a movie star character and explore a virtual world with a movie star theme. Children are able to make animated films, design artbooks and play online games. The social networking aspect of the game allows users to use chat rooms to make contact with other users. There are a range of safety features and advice available.

In the previous month numerous reports have been noted where adults are contacting children via this app for the purpose of grooming and acquiring indecent images.

There is no minimum age requirement, however the app is aimed at children aged 8-15 years. As part of MovieStarPlanet's child safeguarding policy, they do not condone the use of the site by adults (those over 18 years), except for parents or those with a professional interest. Therefore if any inappropriate contact is made report it using the yellow triangle to allow moderators to view that content.

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# Social Media APP Bulletin

Parents worried their children are swapping inappropriate pictures and selfies with friends or even strangers online are being offered a smartphone app to automatically spot suspect images. The firm behind [Gallery Guardian](#) says it uses sophisticated image recognition software to scan pictures appearing on a child's mobile to detect naked skin, genitalia or breast exposure. If the app spots a suspect image on the child's phone, the parent is immediately sent an alert reading "suspicious image detected". Gallery Guardian also provides resources for parents to help have those sensitive conversations with their children if an image is detected.

Gallery Guardian is not the complete answer yet. While it monitors and detects images on your child's photo gallery, if your child receives an image via another app that is not downloaded into the gallery, snapchat for example, Gallery Guardian is unable to scan these apps. In addition although not currently a capability, Gallery Guardian does have the ability to detect nudity in video, however will be launching this feature soon. Gallery Guardian is a good start however given apps are the primary conduit for young persons to send 'youth produced sexual imagery', this should not be seen as a magic bullet solution for parents.

A young person (under 18 years old) is breaking the law if they:

* Take an explicit photo or video of themselves or someone else.
* Share an explicit image or video of a child, even shared between people of the same age.
• Possess, download or store these images.

However even though a young person has broken the law and the police could provide evidence that they have done so, the police can record that they chose not to take further action as it was not in the public interest, known as outcome 21 by the home office.

# Social Media APP Bulletin

With the internet and apps evolving every week it can be easy to feel like technology is moving too fast for us, however it doesn't change the fact that young people will always seek to interact with technology and will always require our advice and support when online.

Below are a number of resources to help educate adults and young people around the issue of online safety and app security:

The **UK safer internet centre**; where you can find e-safety tips, advice and resources to help children and young people stay safe online.

The **Revenge porn hotline**; the only organisation providing such a service in the UK, providing support and advice to the victims of the non-consensual sharing of intimate images and cyber-enabled blackmail (known as sextortion).

**POSH (The Professionals Online Safety Helpline)**; The Professionals Online Safety Helpline is a free service for all professionals and volunteers working with children and young people. It provides signposting, advice and mediation to resolve online safety issues staff face about themselves, such as protecting professional identity and online harassment, or problems affecting young people, for example cyber-bullying or sexting issues. Where appropriate we can also provide advice or facilitate in the removal on harmful content. POSH have created good relationships with many of the giant tech companies and are a great place to start if you have any concerns with a particular site or App.

UK Safer internet centre    Professionals Online Safety Helpline    Revenge porn helpline    Protecting young people from online grooming

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