

Tablet PCs as Christmas gifts - advice to parents

Many children will receive tablet PCs as presents this year and this newsletter is distributed to alert you to some things you should consider about the use of them.

The internet is an area where children can find many different sorts of information and resources. Unfortunately some of the materials that can be found will be beyond the maturity of your child to handle.

Talk to your child about safe surfing and what to do if they find something that upsets them. Encouraging them to be open about what they find is a good way of leading them through the experience.

Many ISPs – Internet Service Providers also provide parental control software which like the software you can buy blocks offensive content. Locking down a tablet PC is very important because it is nearly always used when the child is alone.

Almost without exception, computers and mobile devices sold for use by the public are equipped as standard with the means for you to filter content which you do not want your child to access. These tools can be simply accessed via the computer's control panel. If in doubt about how to access and set these up, refer to online help or ask your retailer.



If you have an android tablet there are three things you should consider doing.

- Loading Google Play Store and altering the settings by changing the content filtering option – everyone, low maturity, medium maturity, high maturity. You can also PIN protect the ability to change this. This restricts the searches for apps only.
- Blocking purchases on Google Play – it is sensible that your child cannot purchase apps unknown to you.
- Installing a child safe filter such as Kids Place or Funamo which are free downloads. These allow you to control such things as: the websites that can be accessed, the times the internet can be used, safe searching on YouTube, Bing, Google and Yahoo, protecting installed apps from accidental erasure, automatic recording of contacts, applications and websites used and many other device tracking options.

Do remember that parental controls are there to help you – they are not guaranteed to work – they are not an online babysitter. There is no substitute for knowing and watching what your child is doing online.

But above all enjoy your Christmas in the knowledge that you have made every attempt to protect your child online.



Christ Church
C of E Aided



William Stockton
Primary School



Woodlands
Primary School



The Oaks Community
Primary School



Meadow
Primary School



Capenhurst
CE Primary School



Whitby Heath
Primary School