Internet Safety at Home

Minecraft:

What is it?

Minecraft is one of the biggest computer games worldwide. Children use their imagination to build 3D worlds in a digital landscape. Players can choose different 'servers' to join, which are created by other players, meaning everyone's experience is unique.

Is it addictive?

As with other games, Minecraft is a game where people can keep returning with constant challenges and personal goals to achieve. Children may find it difficult to know when to stop playing and can lose track of time when they are playing.

Can my child talk to strangers?

Children can talk to strangers via a live chat feature. This chat has basic filtering which blocks out external links and offensive language. Your child may talk about 'griefing', this is when someone purposely ruins another players game often by ruining their creation. There have been reports of grooming on Minecraft, when children are asked to share explicit photos and in more serious cases, meet up.

Do they ask for private information?

There are several website that offer downloadable 'mods' which modify gameplay. Most of them are safe to use but some contain viruses which can try and find personal information about your child.

Do they ask for money?

No, after you have bought Minecraft, it does not cost you anything.

What are the age restrictions?

The child must be over 10 years old.

How can you help?

You can use **parental controls** to **limit game time** on Xbox and PC or if they are using it on a phone, you can limit the amount of matches they can play. **Disable or moderate chat.** To do this: 1. Select Options 2. Toggle the chat button to Hidden or Commands Only. **Monitor YouTube tutorials** they watch. Many expert players make YouTube videos for children to watch but they can have sexual references and bad language. You can change the game so they play in **'creative' and 'peaceful' mode** which takes away the scarier elements. Advise your child to only enter servers of people they know and trust. Set **time limits** for you child.