



December Safeguarding Snippet

This will be the last Safeguarding snippet sent this year, however, if anything of significant importance or interest comes my way before the end of the term, I will send it on also. I hope this update finds you well and you are looking forward to a well-earned rest over Christmas.

12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a Tech-Free Christmas



There's no disputing how integral the digital world has become to modern life 🌐 📱 It can prove difficult for many young people to stay off smart phones, tablets and other devices for a single day – even one as special as Christmas. In fact, according to a survey by e-commerce platform Groupon, almost 80% of parents and carers would prefer a festive period that's free from technology 📵

To view this guide in full, please follow this link:

<https://www.gilberd.com/download/12-top-tips-for-children-and-young-people-enjoying-a-tech-free-christmas/?wpdmcl=5780&refresh=658017753ddc61702893429>

Concerns and headlines raised about the use of Facebook, WhatsApp and Meta social media platforms:

Meta accused of empowering child sexual abusers with encryption rollout

The Home Secretary, James Cleverly, has said the decision by Meta to roll out automatic encryption of all messages on its Facebook and Messenger platforms was a step back for child safety. Cleverly said: "Law enforcement, charities and our close international partners all agree: these plans to roll out end-to-end encryption without appropriate safety measures will empower child sex abusers and hamper the ability of the police and NCA [National Crime Agency] to bring offenders to justice."

The Guardian

But Meta isn't about protecting children, it's about making money, and privacy is at the core of this (even though Meta is one of the biggest privacy violating companies in history). To that end last week they announced that Facebook, Facebook Messenger and Instagram Direct (direct messages) are to be end-to-end encrypted (E2EE), exactly the same as WhatsApp has always been. This is already being rolled out in the U.S., with other countries to follow in the coming months. This means that criminal activity across their services/platforms is undetectable using current methods. No detection = no reporting.

The outcome of this? Tens of millions of children will not be identified and safeguarded from grooming and exploitation! The words I want to use to describe this are not appropriate in a professional communication, so I will default to a statement made by Susie Hargreaves, CEO of the Internet Watch Foundation who said, "Meta is effectively rolling out the welcome mat for paedophiles."

[Here is a useful guide for parents and carers:](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/what-is-end-to-end-encryption/)

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/what-is-end-to-end-encryption/>

[And also one for young people:](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/what-is-end-to-end-encryption/)

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For Parents - Roblox Checklist 2023

I shared this checklist a few months ago, but with Xmas just around the corner it's a useful resource to share with parents, particularly as Roblox is one of the most popular games out there.

Roblox and SWGfL have collaborated together and created a checklist for parents which includes:

- How to report abuse.
- How to block users.
- Setting up a parent control pin.
- And more.

The resource can be downloaded [HERE](#).

For Parents - Little Digital Helps Toolkit

This is a really useful toolkit for parents/carers who may be unsure about what parental features are available on their children's devices. Put together by Internet Matters and Tesco it takes around 8 minutes to answer a few questions and then receive a tailored toolkit.

All details about the toolkit can be found [HERE](#).

Lastly, whilst we hope you all enjoy the festive period, we recognise that it can also be stressful. Please follow this link to advice and guidance for some of the key issues that families can face over Christmas, with some practical ideas to support you and your families:

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/tips-for-everyday-living/christmas-and-mental-health/christmas-coping-tips/>

from MIND UK

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dJX_ePEHegY4XLI7Du3BoqH3je4cp3Ed/view?pli=1

from KOOTH 'Alongside you this Winter.'