

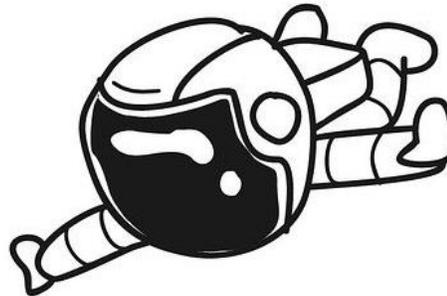
# Online Safety Newsletter

## December 2020

### Among Us!

#### What is Among Us?

Among Us is free to download and is rated due to infrequent/mild horror/fear themes infrequent/mild cartoon or fantasy with 4 – 10 players whose task is to prep completing a series of tasks. However, one imposter who is trying to sabotage the game and kill the other crew members.



9+ by the App Store and violence. You play their spaceship by of the crew is an

#### What do I need to be aware of?

**In-app purchases** - In app purchase are available priced from £1.99 - £2.99.

**Play privately** – games can either be played publicly or privately. To just play with people you know, set it to “private” and share the room code with them (this is the safer option).

**Chat facility** - If your child is playing a ‘public’ game (or even in a private room with people they don’t know) then due to the chat facility, they may meet and chat with people which always creates an element of risk.

**Inappropriate behaviour** - If someone is host can ban that player from the room so

being rude, then only the you are reliant on the host.

#### Parental Controls

There is the ability to censor chat to filter bad may be words that get through the filter)



words out (although there

#### Further information

You can read more about Among Us here:

- <https://www.common sense media.org/game-reviews/among-us>
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/is-among-us-multiplayer-game-safe-for-children/>

### What is TikTok?

**You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok.**

Users can watch musical clips, record 60 second clips (it includes lots of lip synching and dancing), edit them and add special effects.



### Is your child using TikTok?

TikTok have created their top 10 Tips for you, which provides a really useful overview of settings to make TikTok a safer environment:

<https://newsroom.tiktok.com/en-us/tiktoks-top-10-tips-for-parents>

### Privacy settings

Find out about TikTok's privacy settings and choose the most appropriate for your child. It is safer for an account to be set to private (therefore only people your child chooses to accept can follow them) although you would still need to talk to your child about only accepting requests from people they know in real life. You can also set whether or not people can comment on their content.

### Reporting

As with any app/website your child is using to interact with others, ensure that they know how to delete, report or block another user as well as know how to report any inappropriate content that they come across:

- <https://support.tiktok.com/sv/privacy-safety/block-accounts-sv>
- <https://support.tiktok.com/en/privacy-safety/report-inappropriate-content-default>

### Direct messaging/commenting

TikTok has a direct messaging element so users can chat to each other (**TikTok now automatically disables Direct Messages for registered accounts under the age of 16**) as well as the ability to comment on each other's content. There is a risk on TikTok that cyberbullying can occur, or a user can receive unwanted attention from a stranger. TikTok have produced this list of available settings to reduce the risk of this happening <https://www.tiktok.com/safety/resources/anti-bully?lang=en>. It is important that your child understands that if they come across anything that they don't like or makes them feel uncomfortable then they should speak to you or another trusted adult.

### **Family safety mode**

TikTok have created Family Pairing to help you keep your child safe whilst using TikTok. Family Pairing allows parents to link their own TikTok account to their child's account.

### **Further information**

<https://www.tiktok.com/safety/resources/anti-bully>

## **Monitoring Apps**

Would you like to monitor what your child is doing online? The best app to use will be dependent on what devices your child is using but this helpful article from Internet Matters reviews the top monitoring apps for you:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/monitoring-apps-parents-guide/>