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Dear Parent/ Carer,

Many children and young people will be receiving the latest gadgets such as tablets, smart phones and games consoles this Christmas.

The internet and all it can offer, is a wonderful tool for keeping in touch with friends and family, however parents and carers need to be aware that it is possible for people who are not known to your children and young people, to communicate with them via the internet.

Some parents, carers or relatives might not realise that even games consoles such as Xbox and PlayStation are connected to the internet and can be used for communicating as well as playing games.

While using these gadgets is second nature for many children and young people, they can seem quite daunting for parents or carers who may not be as technologically savvy.

Simple, step-by-step instructions have been produced on how to set the privacy settings on the most popular applications and games consoles used by children and young people.

If you have bought a child or young person a new gadget eg; mobile, games console or ipad for Christmas, you can follow these instructions and enable these settings before you give your gift and therefore help protect your child or young person online.

To access the instructions for the most popular applications and consoles go to the Leeds Safeguarding Children Board website: www.leedslscb.org.uk and click on the **Parents/Carers** section.

Kind regards

Jane Held
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