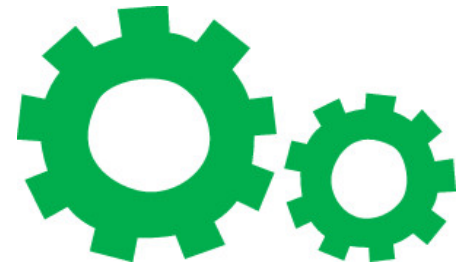# Keeping children safe online
Advice for libraries

Settings help to protect children's privacy (e.g., posts, images, videos, livestreams) and filters make sure that children aren't exposure to inappropriate content. Here are some tips you can use to help apply them in your library and help parents do the same at home. After talking to children about the risks online, applying filters and settings is a great start to help keep children safe online.

Settings and Filters

What types of filters and settings are there?

Location settings

A lot of apps, sites and games include features that rely on knowing the user's location. The user might be prompted to switch these on, but they may be on by default. We'd recommend making sure these are switched off. Parents and children should also be mindful of sharing personal details online which could give away their location, like school uniform, street name or front door.

Privacy settings

These settings determine which personal information (e.g., name, age, location, username) is made public online, and to whom. Most websites/apps don't have privacy settings on by default, so please check all library devices and tell parents to check any social media sites, apps or games their child might use. Applying maximum privacy settings at all times will help to keep children safe.

Content filters

Some apps offer tools to help adults tailor the content children see. For example, by blocking content that's unsuitable for their age. Make sure these are applied in your library. At home, parents can do the same, so children are only able to view age-appropriate content. Some social media sites have 'sensitive content' filters. This filter blurs out the content, which decrease the likelihood of children accidentally coming across inappropriate material

Supporting parents with filters and settings

Net Aware brings together the NSPCC's expertise in protecting children and O2's tech know-how to help you keep your child safe online. It gives simple, bitesize information and advice on the latest apps, games and social media sites. You'll find:
- The privacy settings and safety guidelines for sites and apps like Instagram, Snapchat and more
- Expert view on risks, safety features, content and privacy setting.
- Tech tips from O2 Gurus

Parents can also sign up to our newsletter to get the latest news and updates straight to your inbox

If parents would like more information and advice on filters and settings, you can direct them to the NSPCC's advice page on setting up parental controls on:

1) WiFi/phone networks
2) Devices
3) Specific apps, sites and games