



February 2018

Dear parent/carer

I am writing to you regarding a number of mobile applications that are increasing in popularity with children. One of these is a game called **Roblox** and is a large multi-player online social game similar to Minecraft and Lego and another is called **Sarahah** which is an online commenting app.

There has been recent nationwide publicity over concerns regarding Roblox and communication between children and unknown members of the public, who after becoming "friends" on the game can send private messages if the correct safety settings are not in place. In addition, some children have been exposed to "inappropriate content" in the game such as violent actions, swearing and scenes of a sexual nature.

Sarahah has received attention due to the anonymous comments being left once children have posted a video or image. These untraceable comments are leading to low self-esteem in children and the potential of being exposed to online bullying.

In our school, we are proud of how children are able to communicate about how to stay safe in the online world and we appreciate the support from parents concerning such matters. However, if you are concerned about this game or any other application your child may be playing, please check the following on any games:

- Ensure locks are in place for you to monitor which applications are being installed on devices.
- Create a parent login to monitor activity in the game and ensure the correct date of birth is entered – this will ensure "safe-chat" mode is enabled for those who are under 13.
- Access account restrictions and ensure appropriate blocks are in place.
- Check privacy settings to see who can contact your child.
- Regularly monitor messages in your child's account.

Below are a number of websites for parental advice. If you have any questions or queries regarding these, please do not hesitate to contact us for advice.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Phelan  
Assistant Head

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>