

The Tablet Revolution

Post-Christmas sales figures estimate that between 12 and 13 million tablets were sold in the UK at the end of last year, which means that over half the UK population now owns or has access to a tablet. This does not take into consideration all the iPhones, laptops and consoles which were also popular choices for Christmas presents. All of these devices give full access to the internet and rarely do parents set up filters, or activated parental controls. It is fantastic that young people have the ability to access the wealth of information available online but they can potentially become vulnerable to the dangers that exist too.

Golden rules for using tablets:

1. You should only ever use the official app stores to download software. A malicious app is dangerous because it can steal all the data from your smartphone or tablet and send out spam. Or, even worse, it can monitor everything you do and capture all your usernames and passwords.
2. It is also a good idea to get an anti-virus app for your phone or tablet – all the major AV makers have mobile editions, and many of these tools are free.
3. Many games offer in-app purchases (IAPs) where additional items or game time are bought for relatively small amounts of money. This has led to some kids racking up big bills on their parent's credit cards. Thankfully, this is easy to prevent as both Apple and Android devices offer a password protection setting. Once enabled it's not possible to buy any apps or IAPs without entering the password first.
4. Controlling access on a mobile device which uses your broadband connection is easy, but even cheap tablets and smartphones include Wi-Fi now and so you may want to install some parental software for when they're linked to networks outside your control. Check the app stores for different options.