



Jennett's Park CE Primary School

Head Teacher: Mrs Elizabeth Savage
3 Tawny Owl Square,
Jennett's Park, Bracknell RG12 8EB
T: 01344 301269

secretary@jennetts.bonitas.org.uk

RE: Urgent action to check messages in Roblox

3rd June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had it brought to our attention that there has been a serious incident occur for students in school using the platform Roblox. Police and authorities have been alerted and we will of course stay vigilant for any new actions here.

Our thoughts go to the parents and children involved. We will support in school with additional sessions on safety in school and guidance to all children.

We have lots of information here [Esafety | Jennett's Park \(bonitas.org.uk\)](https://www.bonitas.org.uk). Please see below details on how to check in-app messaging on Roblox, but do bear in mind that players can also chat within the different levels.

Mobile: Reading and Replying to Messages

Your Roblox messages are available on the Roblox Mobile App and can be accessed with the Navigation bar at the bottom of the screen.

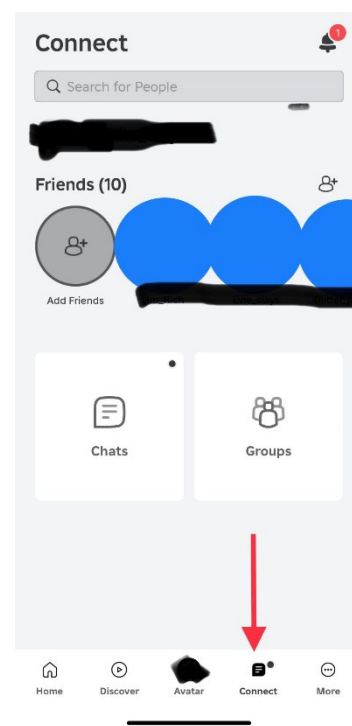
To Read Personal Messages

1. Tap the "... " icon at the bottom right corner of the screen
2. Select Messages
3. Scroll through your messages. Once at the bottom, more will load automatically.
4. Select which message you wish to read.

To Reply to Personal Messages

1. Tap the "... " icon at the bottom right corner of the screen
2. Select Messages
3. Scroll through your messages. Once at the bottom, more will load automatically.
4. Select which message you wish to send a reply.
5. Tap Reply, enter your message, then tap Send.

Note: Personal Messages can be reported. Tap Report this message to send a report to our moderators.



You can see specific advice on Roblox here [Roblox](#)

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ROBLOX

Roblox is one of the most popular video games on the market. By 2020, the game's makers were claiming that more than half of children in the USA play it. As a 'sandbox' title, Roblox offers a huge amount of creative freedom: it lets players create their own gaming experiences with the Roblox Studio to build custom levels and games, which can then be shared with other players online. Roblox fosters creative thinking and enjoys a robust online community of fans.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS
Roblox encourages players to communicate online (including a group chat facility). This could expose children to risks such as scammers, online predators, harassment, griefers and more. The in-game chat has some filters, but isn't perfect: players can still send harmful messages to others – such as general hostility – while predators can reach out to children directly.

ONLINE DATERS
These are also called 'Daters' and are quite common in Roblox. An Dater is an individual who joins a game with the intention of finding someone to date online – and eventually meet in person. Such online dating is against the Roblox community guidelines, but this usually doesn't deter Daters. Some player-bullied Roblox game worlds have even been designed with online dating specifically in mind.

PUBLIC SERVERS
Roblox has private or VIP servers which allow people to play exclusively with their friends, but it costs money. Most Roblox players will instead be on public servers that anyone can join. Servers can host games which focus on all kinds of aspects, including direct player interaction. Some games and servers, therefore, will put children more at risk of contact from strangers than others.

IN-APP PURCHASES
Roblox is actually free to download and play, but bear in mind that there are some hidden costs. Players are encouraged to make purchases in the game, for example, using real money. People can also buy extra Robux (the in-game currency) to spend on cosmetic items in the game, and some private or VIP servers also have a cost.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SET PARENTAL CONTROLS
Roblox comes with several parental control options, which are explained well on the game's official website. It's essential to enter the correct date of birth for your child, as that allows Roblox to automatically apply the appropriate chat filters. The game also allows parents and carers to set monthly spending restrictions and monitor their child's account.

DISABLE PRIVATE MESSAGING
Roblox's private messaging function raises the risk of children being contacted by people they may not want to speak with – potentially leading to bullying, harassment, toxicity and scam attempts. The game allows you to disable messages from anyone who hasn't been added as a friend on your child's account.

PRIVATE SERVERS
If your child has some genuine friends to play Roblox online with, paying for a private or VIP server decreases the risk of contact from strangers. Even then, however, some players could invite other people – who might not necessarily be child-friendly – into the private server. If your child is a Roblox fan, it's important to talk with them regularly about who they are playing the game with.

MONITOR SPENDING
If they don't understand they're using real money, it's easy for children to accidentally spend a sizeable amount in the game. Using parental controls to place limits on their spending will help avoid any nasty financial surprises. Ensuring that you have two-factor authentication on your payment accounts also makes it harder for your child to spend money inadvertently.

DEALING WITH STRANGERS
At some point in their development, your child will need to learn how to deal with strangers online. Show them how to block and report any users who are upsetting them or asking uncomfortable questions. Talking to them about what's OK to discuss – and what they should never tell a stranger online – will help them understand how to communicate with other people online safely.

Meet Our Expert
Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 10.10.2022

Yours sincerely,

Liz Savage
Headteacher of Jennett's Park CE Primary

