Filters for age-appropriate content

A definition

Content controls and filters for age-appropriate content allow you to block or filter unwanted content or apps, limit your kids' screen time, set privacy rules, see your kids' recent activity and more.
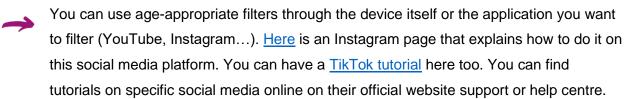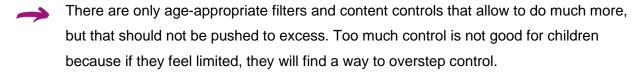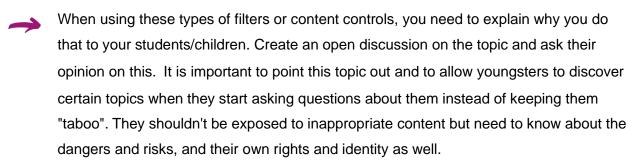
Why is this important?

When children start to use social media, they have access to many videos and content that are not always very appropriate for them. Sometimes because they are too violent, too scary, or just unwanted. This kind of content can be a risk to their mental health. They can develop traumatism because of violent or scary content or be influenced by the wrong people and have behavioural issues.

Tips and tricks

➡ You can use age-appropriate filters through the device itself or the application you want to filter (YouTube, Instagram…). Here is an Instagram page that explains how to do it on this social media platform. You can have a TikTok tutorial here too. You can find tutorials on specific social media online on their official website support or help centre.

➡ There are only age-appropriate filters and content controls that allow to do much more, but that should not be pushed to excess. Too much control is not good for children because if they feel limited, they will find a way to overstep control.

➡ When using these types of filters or content controls, you need to explain why you do that to your students/children. Create an open discussion on the topic and ask their opinion on this. It is important to point this topic out and to allow youngsters to discover certain topics when they start asking questions about them instead of keeping them "taboo". They shouldn't be exposed to inappropriate content but need to know about the dangers and risks, and their own rights and identity as well.

Useful resources and tools

➢ The "Protect your child" article from internetmatters.org provides tips on how to block inappropriate content and start an open discussion about safety online.

➢ E-safety page from meonjuniorschool.org.uk is an article providing tools and tips to keep them safe online and lots of resources and e-safety website recommendations.