



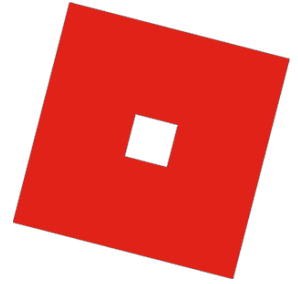
# The Oak-Tree Group of Schools

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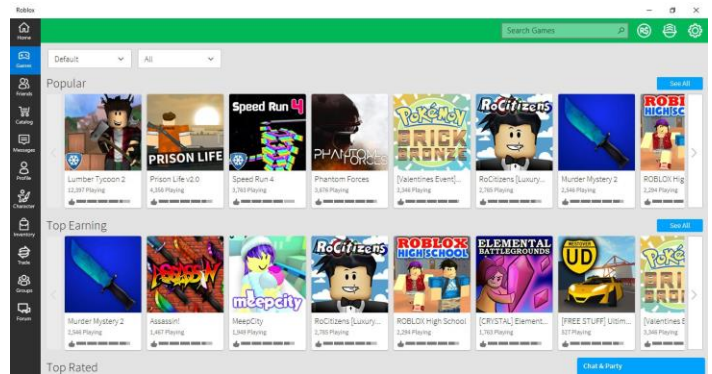
## What is Roblox?

Roblox is a free-to-play 3D online multiplayer game that can be played on most devices (tablets, computers etc). Players create an Avatar (a digital representation of themselves) and can play a vast number of mini-games with other players. Many of the games have been created by other Roblox users. Players can chat to each other while playing any of the games, and you have the ability to add people to a 'Friend' list. The game is currently available on X-Box One, Windows 10, Apple devices and android devices



As the game is designed for players of all ages, Roblox includes some safety features to give all players a safe and fun experience. This includes an active word filtering system that should proactively block certain words, like swear words, and replace them with ##### in both the public chat and personal messages.

They also employ a team of moderators who monitor chat activity on the games.

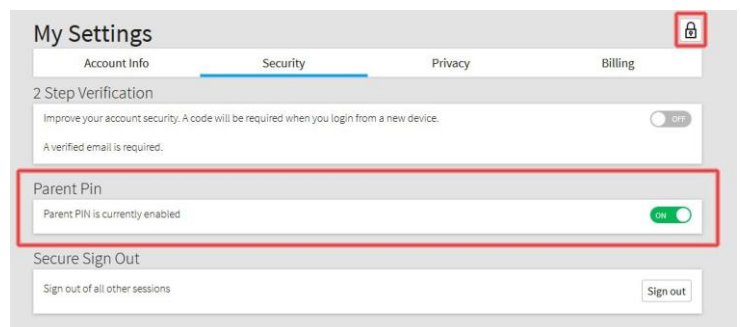


## Do age restrictions apply?

There are no age restrictions for creating an account, but users who are over 13 get access to an expanded vocabulary list and the ability to adjust some settings such as being able to privately message other users who are not on their 'Friend' list, or linking social media accounts (Facebook, Musical.ly etc). There is no proof required that a child is actually 13 or over, and it is easy for a younger child to set up an 'older' account unchecked. It's also important to remember that some games have been designed for adults by adults so may feature some mature themes - always check the game before letting children play.

## Are there any privacy settings?

Yes. If your child has set their age to under 13, Roblox will place them on a restricted chat system automatically. This means that they will only be able to directly message and be messaged by other users who are on their 'Friend' list. The filtering system is automatically enabled and blocks certain words from being shared, including your password.



Parents can use a PIN code to make sure that the settings cannot be altered without it. There is also the option to control who can send you messages (friends or nobody), as well as the ability to completely turn off the chat function throughout the app.



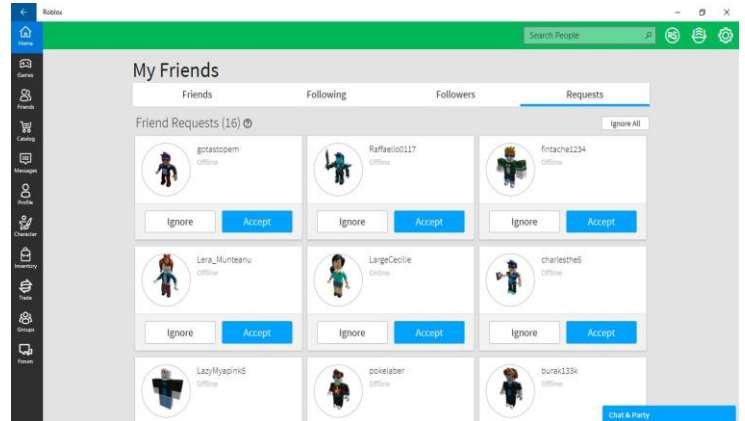
## Things to think about:

Roblox is a game designed to encourage playing with unknown people, which makes it popular for children, teens and adults.

## Strangers

While the game tries to keep children safe, they may still be playing with people who they think are children, but might be adults - there is no maximum age limit on the app and there is no way of knowing who the random people playing actually are.

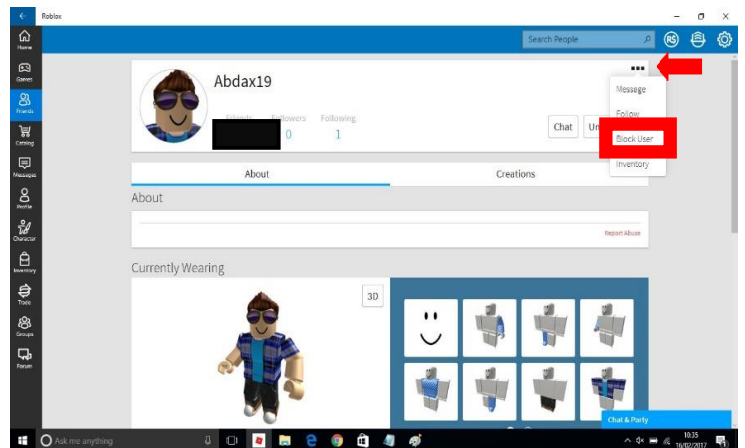
Consider turning off the chat option and/or talk to your child about only adding people to 'Friend' lists who are known in person as otherwise they do not know who is actually behind a user's chat request.



## Cyber-Bullying

Although Roblox tries to stop inappropriate and offensive messages, just like in the real world, it is not always possible to do. If your child comes across someone who is spoiling their experience or being offensive then make sure you block and report them.

Blocking will stop them playing with your child or contacting them again, while reporting will inform Roblox who can send that user a message telling them to stop or just remove them from the game completely. Of course, there's nothing to stop that user opening a new account immediately under a different name.



## Personal Information

One of the number one rules on Roblox is for children not to share any personal information such as their age, where they live, their real name or their password (even with 'real' friends). Encourage your child to treat strangers on Roblox in the same way they would in real life – no one needs to know their personal information to play games with them online. It's also important that they don't share other usernames or gamer tags with other Roblox players, and especially not to try to communicate with them through any other site or service. Encourage your child to talk to you if someone is inviting them to other games or if they are asking too many personal questions.

## Want to learn more?

Roblox Support: <https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us>

Roblox Blog on safety features: <https://blog.roblox.com/2017/03/keeping-community-safe>

**If you have concerns about the immediate safety of a child, you can call the Police on 101 or, in an emergency, 999**