

#### What is Roblox?

Roblox is a gaming platform where multiple players interact and play together online. The site has a collection of games aimed at 8-18 year olds, however players of all ages can use the site. Roblox is currently available on PC, phone, tablet and Xbox One.

Every game on Roblox is created by users, and there are a wide variety to choose from. These can vary from delivering pizzas, to roaming a kingdom as a medieval knight, to even starring in a fashion show. This variety is one of the reasons that Roblox is so popular with young people.

# Content: what content is available that might not be suitable for children

The Roblox Studio is a section where players use their imagination and skills to create their own games and share these with others. The ability to create and play games can be very appealing to young people who like to create the content they see online.

However, because content is *user-generated* it can mean that some games <u>might not be appropriate</u> <u>for young children</u>. For example, whilst the graphics are not very life like, some of the games feature weapons and blood.

### Communication: how users can communicate with others

Whilst the games are aimed at 8-18 year olds, there are no age restrictions. This means both adults and young people can play and communicate with each other on the platform.

All games are multiplayer and include a written chat feature, which is visible to players within each individual game. Users can also make and receive friend requests during gameplay and this means that they can chat to each other outside of the game.



## Costs: How children might accidentally run up costs

By creating games, users can earn Robux, the ingame currency. You can also buy Robux in the game. Players can spend money on items, such as membership to the Builders Club.

If game creators attract players and in-game adverts, they can earn a lot of Robux, which they can convert into real money. To do this, players must be over the age of 13, have paid for Roblox's premium subscription, and have access to a Paypal account. This means that younger players would need to talk to an adult to be able to exchange their Robux for real money.

#### Quick links

https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/roblox-guide-parents
Roblox advice on how to block and report violations
www.askaboutgames.com/

www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics/gaming

#### What are people saying about Roblox?



Boy, 12

"I don't like the fact you can privately message people in-game, the way the gaming community surrounding it is filled with hate towards each other, or the expensive micro-transactions."



Boy, 13

"The game has many features to block or get rid of people but I feel sometimes they don't work. There are some offensive worlds that are a bit disturbing but you can avoid these easily as they normally have offensive thumbnails or titles."



Mother

"Lots of interesting games, some are alright for getting kids thinking. I'm not a big fan of the in-game chat as there is scope for kids to be rude to each other. This can be turned off but kids won't necessarily do so." – Mother of a 12 yr old girl



Roblox

"Roblox helps power the imaginations of people around the world. Our users come to Roblox to imagine, create, and play together in immersive 3D worlds, making it the largest interactive platform for play. We call it the "Imagination Platform" and invite everyone to play on it."