

# Online Safety News

MAY 2026

## Real or Fake? Why It's Getting Harder to Tell

AI-generated images are now so realistic that even adults struggle to tell the difference.

This matters because children are growing up in a world where:

- Not everything they see online is real
- Images can be created or edited in seconds
- Fake content can influence what they believe, feel, and trust

### Steps to take



- ✓ Remind children: "Not everything online is real – even if it looks it"
- ✓ Encourage them to question what they see, not just accept it
- ✓ Talk about how images can be edited, filtered or completely generated

### The best way – test yourselves together.

BBC Bitesize has created a simple, interactive quiz to test how easy it is to be fooled:

[The monthly AI or Real quiz: March 2026 – BBC Bitesize](#)

It's a great way to start a conversation – and most people are surprised by how tricky it is.

## ROBLOX IS CHANGING Here's what you need to know

In June, Roblox will be rolling out two brand-new account types specifically for younger users. Roblox Kids will be assigned to anyone aged 5 to 8, and Roblox Select will cover ages 9 to 15.



### Key Changes in June 2026

- **Age-Based Accounts:** Users will be segmented into Roblox Kids (roughly 5–8) and Roblox Select (9–15).
- **Access Restrictions:** "Kids" accounts are limited to games with "Minimal" or "Mild" content ratings.
- **Automatic Transition:** Accounts will automatically update to higher access levels upon reaching 9 and 16 years old.
- **Communication Limits:** By default, users in "Kids" accounts will have chat features disabled, requiring parental approval for communication.
- **Mandatory Age Checks:** Users who do not complete an age verification check will be restricted to lower-rated games and no chat.
- **Expanded Parental Controls:** Parents can link accounts, approve specific chat contacts, and control content ratings, with some controls lasting until the user turns 16.

These are all much needed improvements, but rely on the correct age of a child being entered and parental supervision.

Inevitably there will be some integration issues as this rolls out and nothing is ever 100% safe or guaranteed where tech is concerned. This is not a quick fix and up to now children have been harmed on this platform, even with settings in place.

### Steps to take now

Log into Roblox on your kid's device, open the parent dashboard, and check that date of birth, screen time limits, spending limits, and chat restrictions are actually set the way you want. Please continue to monitor this platform very closely if your child uses it.

## The conversation starter that works better than "be careful online"

Connection and curiosity can be one of the best ways to talk to your child about online safety. Here's three conversation starters to try.

"What's the most interesting thing you've seen online recently?" (opens the door without judgment)

"If someone online asked you something that felt a bit weird, what would you do?" (tests their instinct without lecturing)

"What do you think 'private information' means?" (surprising how many children aren't sure — and it's a great conversation)

The biggest protective factor isn't a parental control — it's a child who feels they can talk to you without getting their device taken away.

## Three parental controls every primary parent should set up — in under 10 minutes

Here are the three most impactful, quick-to-set-up controls for primary-aged children:

- ✓ Apple Screen Time or Google Family Link  
The built-in tools on your child's phone or tablet. Set a daily time limit per app, a bedtime for the device, and content restrictions by age.

Apple Screen Time guide: [Here are the three most impactful, quick-to-set-up controls for primary-aged children](#)

Google Family Link guide: [Here are the three most impactful, quick-to-set-up controls for primary-aged children](#)

- ✓ YouTube Kids (or Supervised Accounts)  
YouTube is the most popular platform among children of all ages. YouTube Kids provides a child-friendly environment, limiting the types of ads and videos available on standard YouTube. If your child is growing in independence, set up a Supervised Account via Google Family Link for greater oversight without full restriction. [Internet Matters](#)

[YouTube Kids parental guide](#)

- ✓ Roblox Parental Controls + PIN  
Because so many primary school children use Roblox, the platform has robust parental controls. Setting a PIN means children cannot alter the settings themselves — without it, children can easily change their own restrictions. [Internet Matters](#)

[Roblox parental controls guide](#)

Full layered guide for all devices, apps and platforms:  
[Parental controls guides](#)

