

Working together to be the best we can possibly be.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4.13

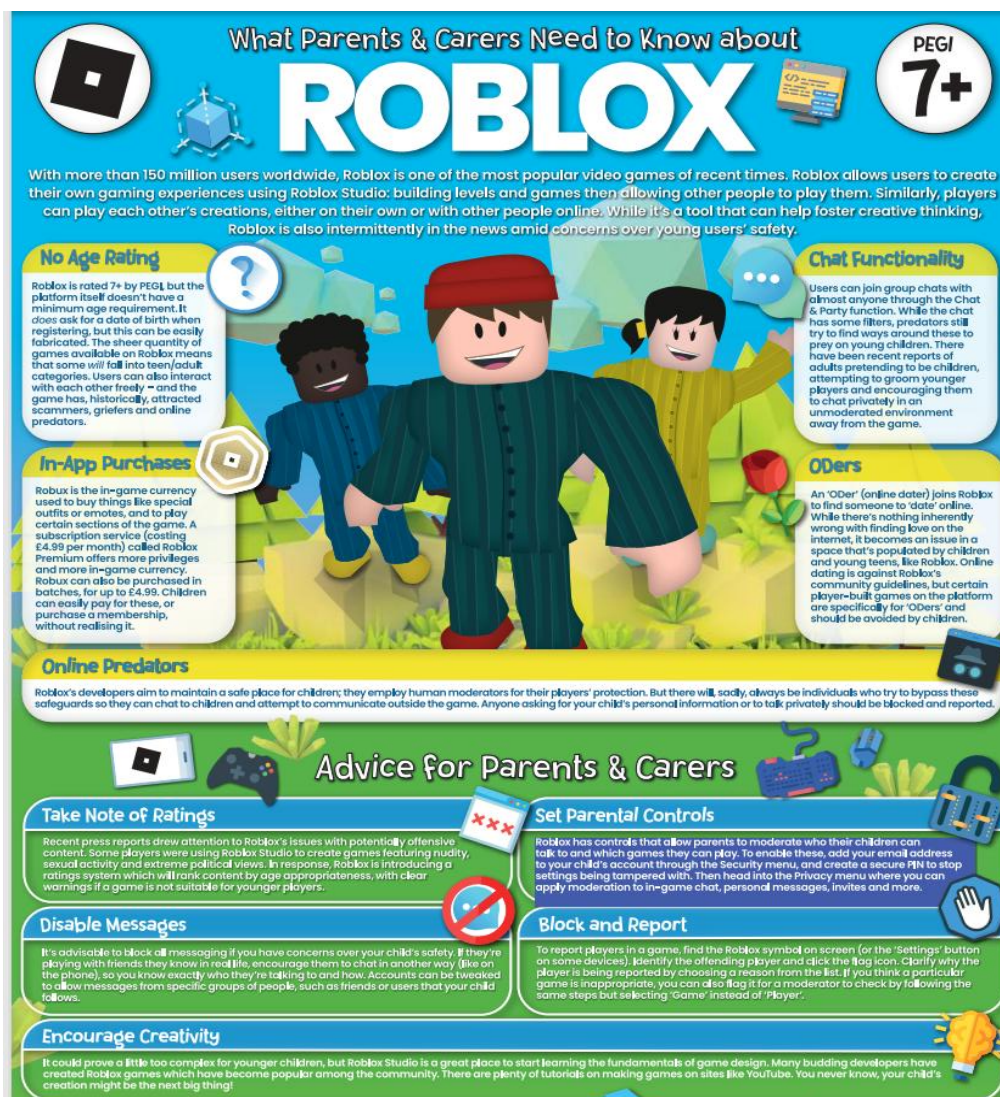
9th May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, we remember those who served and continue to be in active service for our country, we honour their courage and cherish their memory.

Pupils at The Rackham showed great reverence and respect during our whole school Collective Worship and midday silence on 8th May, VE Day. Witchford played an important role during World War II both with 115 Squadron stationed at RAF Witchford (now Lancaster Way business park) and The Rackham C of E Primary where very many evacuees, hosted by families in the village and local area, were educated.

Safeguarding:



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ROBLOX PEGI 7+

With more than 150 million users worldwide, Roblox is one of the most popular video games of recent times. Roblox allows users to create their own gaming experiences using Roblox Studio: building levels and games then allowing other people to play them. Similarly, players can play each other's creations, either on their own or with other people online. While it's a tool that can help foster creative thinking, Roblox is also intermittently in the news amid concerns over young users' safety.

No Age Rating
Roblox is rated 7+ by PEGI, but the platform itself doesn't have a minimum age requirement. It does ask for a date of birth when registering, but this can be easily fabricated. The sheer quantity of games available on Roblox means that some will fall into teen/adult categories. Users can also interact with each other freely – and the game has, historically, attracted scammers, grievers and online predators.

In-App Purchases
Roblox is the in-game currency used to buy things like special outfits or emotes, and to play certain sections of the game. A subscription service (costing £4.99 per month) called Roblox Premium offers more privileges and more in-game currency. Roblox can also be purchased in batches, for up to £4.99. Children can easily pay for these, or purchase a membership, without realising it.

Online Predators
Roblox's developers aim to maintain a safe place for children; they employ human moderators for their players' protection. But there will, sadly, always be individuals who try to bypass these safeguards so they can chat to children and attempt to communicate outside the game. Anyone asking for your child's personal information or to talk privately should be blocked and reported.

Chat Functionality
Users can join group chats with almost anyone through the Chat & Party function. While the chat has some filters, predators still try to find ways around these to prey on young children. There have been recent reports of adults pretending to be children, attempting to groom younger players and encouraging them to chat privately in an unmoderated environment away from the game.

ODers
An 'ODer' (online dater) joins Roblox to find someone to 'date' online. While there's nothing inherently wrong with finding love on the internet, it becomes an issue in a space that's populated by children and young teens, like Roblox. Online dating is against Roblox's community guidelines, but certain player-built games on the platform are specifically for 'ODers' and should be avoided by children.

Advice for Parents & Carers

Take Note of Ratings
Recent press reports drew attention to Roblox's issues with potentially offensive content. Some players were using Roblox Studio to create games featuring nudity, sexual activity and extreme political views. In response, Roblox is introducing a ratings system which will rank content by age appropriateness, with clear warnings if a game is not suitable for younger players.

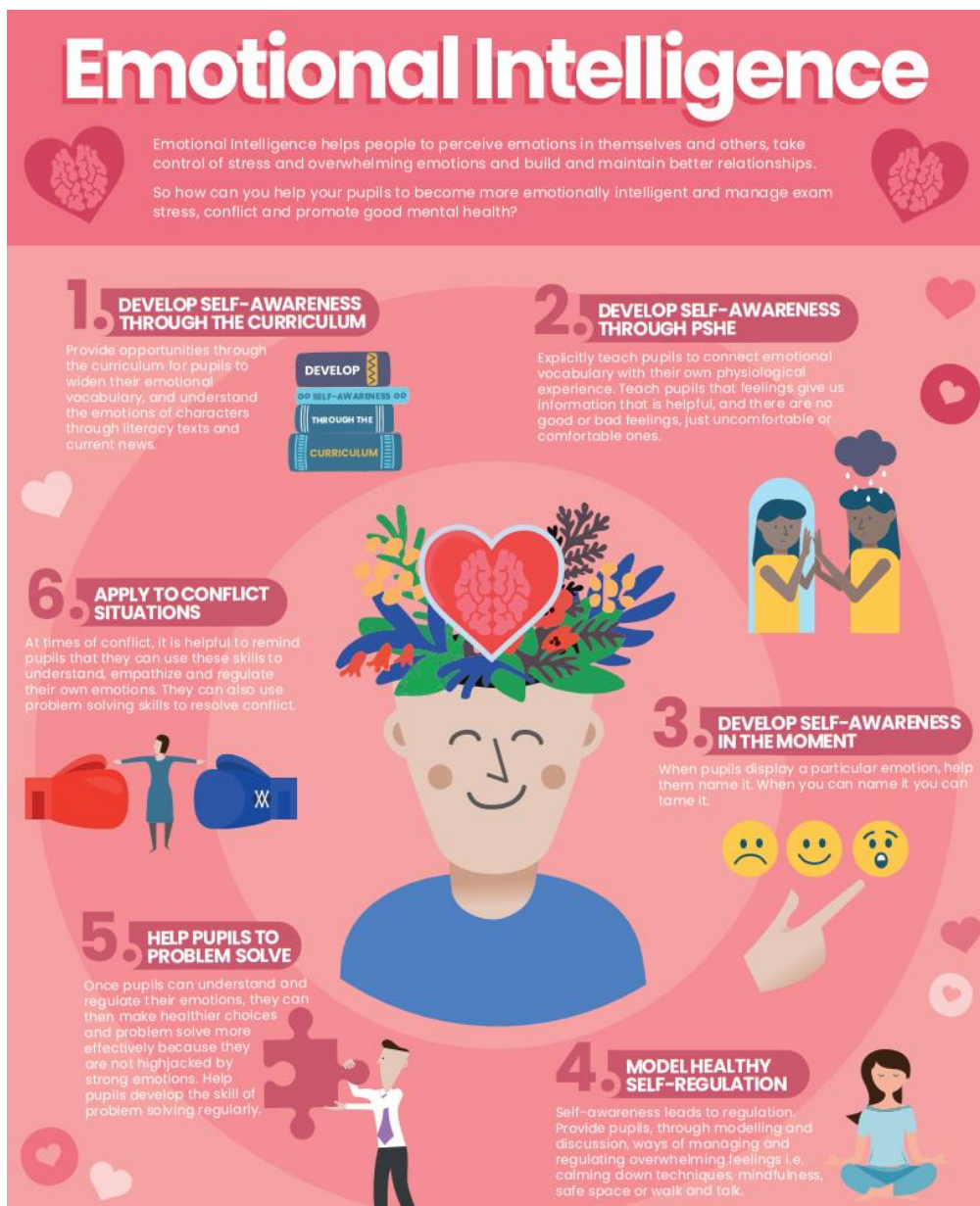
Set Parental Controls
Roblox has controls that allow parents to moderate who their children can talk to and which games they can play. To enable these, add your email address to your child's account through the Security menu, and create a secure PIN to stop settings being tampered with. Then head into the Privacy menu where you can apply moderation to in-game chat, personal messages, invites and more.

Disable Messages
It's advisable to block all messaging if you have concerns over your child's safety. If they're playing with friends they know in real life, encourage them to chat in another way (like on the phone), so you know exactly who they're talking to and how. Accounts can be tweaked to allow messages from specific groups of people, such as friends or users that your child follows.

Block and Report
To report players in a game, find the Roblox symbol on screen (or the 'Settings' button on some devices). Identify the offending player and click the flag icon. Clarify why the player is being reported by choosing a reason from the list. If you think a particular game is inappropriate, you can also flag it for a moderator to check by following the same steps but selecting 'Game' instead of 'Player'.

Encourage Creativity
It could prove a little too complex for younger children, but Roblox Studio is a great place to start learning the fundamentals of game design. Many budding developers have created Roblox games which have become popular among the community. There are plenty of tutorials on making games on sites like YouTube. You never know, your child's creation might be the next big thing!

Wellbeing and mental health:



FWR play a vital part supporting pupils at The Rackham through their fundraising.

- FWR fund the swimming pool so ensuring all our pupils have access to a full term of swimming lessons each year on site.
- FWR fund My Happy Mind to enable all our pupils to have invaluable lessons and opportunity to learn about emotional literacy, an essential life skill.

These two streams of funding from FWR ensure pupils at The Rackham experience areas of the curriculum the school budget would be unable to fund on its own. We are indebted to our volunteers.



- Would you be able to help on Funday Sunday, Sunday 29th June?
- Are you willing to bake or donate a cake for FWR to sell at the Yard Sale on Sunday 18th May?

Please contact the school office in the first instance if you can.

Parent and Carer feedback:

On the school website you will find a tab called 'You suggested, we listened'. As a school we wholeheartedly see the parent and carer community part of the team 'working together to be the best we can possibly be'. [You suggested, we listened | The Rackham C of E \(VC\) Primary School](#)

If you have a suggestion for the Senior Leadership Team, do please let us know:

<https://forms.office.com/e/7DMNAQVqsR>



What do you know about County Lines? Free training for parents and carers:

The Ivison Trust (formerly known as Parents Against Child Exploitation (PACE)) are holding two evening seminars specifically for parents and carers in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with a focus on County Lines and

Criminal Exploitation. These seminars will be delivered with a parent whose child has been a victim of exploitation, sharing their experiences and advice on responding to risks.

The sessions will share what criminal exploitation is, with a focus on county lines and explore how to spot signs that it may be happening to your child or a child you know. They will also cover trends in the local area and where to get advice and support if you are concerned.

For more information and to register a place visit [Parent webinars - county lines and criminal exploitation - Ivison Trust](#)

What parents will learn

- Learn what county lines is
- Understand what is happening in your local area
- Learn how exploiters groom children
- Understand the signs that your child might be at risk
- Know where to access support and advice if you have concerns

Upcoming webinars

- Cambridgeshire 17th June 2025 7:00pm – 8:30pm – [Book your place](#)
- Peterborough 18th June 2025 7:00 – 8:30pm – [Book your place](#)





Scooter and bike sheds: A reminder that we have a dedicated scooter park beyond the two bike sheds as you enter the school site. We politely request that pupils park scooters in the dedicated area to ensure enough room is within the bike sheds to park bikes. Thank you for your help.

Cycle helmets:

While it is not a legal requirement, The Highway Code suggests that cyclists should wear a helmet. We have noticed an increase in the number of children not wearing a cycle helmet and we would encourage parents to consider the use of a cycle helmet for their child's safety.



Suncream: The UV rays are becoming greater in intensity and have been recorded at 4 this week. The recommendation for applying suncream from the Government and Cancer Research UK is when the UV levels are 3+. Parents and Carers are reminded to send sun cream into school with their child. Children will be reminded to

apply cream at lunchtime. Children should arrive on site already wearing suncream please. We recommend sunscreen sticks or lotions for easy application. Some pupils find the sprays tricky to use.

Individual child fans: We provide large fans in every classroom so would request individual fans are left at home please.

Stanley water bottles: Following my previous update about these water bottles, we have reviewed as a staff and conclude the bottle design is tricky as they are very unsteady when standing on pupil's desks. We would be grateful for any future purchases of water bottles to be 1 litre maximum. Thank you for your help.

Un-named uniform lost property, how we would like to help families:

Following the update last week, we have positive feedback from parents and carers so over the coming weeks, staff will name items of clothing where existing name tags may have fallen off or become faded.

Parents and Carers may wish to purchase name labels, one option: <https://www.stikins.co.uk/> Using school fundraising code 16404 will also help to raise funds for FWR at no cost to you.

The Great Rackham Bake Off:



The Great Rackham Bake Off

When: 3rd June 2025

Where: Entries to the hall by 8.30 a.m.

Key Stage 2: Three sweet or savoury scones beautifully presented.

Key Stage 1: Three homemade decorated cup-cakes. Theme fairy tales.

Pre-school/EYFS: Decorate three biscuits. e.g. Rich Tea biscuits.





Dates for your diary:

Sunday 18th May: Yard Sale
 Friday 27th June: Non uniform 'bring a bottle day'
 Sunday 29th June: Funday Sunday
 Wednesday 2nd July: Disco (Reception to Year 6)

FWR Pre-Loved Uniform Sales Summer Term:

Sales before and after school, on the following dates:

- Friday 16th May
- Thursday 26th June

FWR Yard Sale - Sunday 18th May:



Sunday 18th May

9am – 12.30pm

£6 per 'yard'

Spaces also available at the school.

Scan the QR code to book or pay in cash at the Post Office.

Bookings close midnight Thursday 15th May

Maps £1 on the day from the school.

Girl Guiding in Witchford:

Did you know Girlguiding is active in your community? 1st Witchford Rainbows, 1st Witchford Brownies and 1st Witchford Guides provide a range of extracurricular activities for girls aged 4-7, 7-10 and 10-14. We work through a variety of Girlguiding themes, go on adventures, play games, do crafts, bake, take part in community events, undertake challenges, learn new skills and most importantly, have FUN! Would your daughter like to join us? We meet in Witchford on Tuesdays in term time, 4:30-5:30 for Rainbows, 6:00-7:30 for Brownies, and Guides meet 6:30-8:00. Rainbows is currently at capacity and running a waiting list, but there are spaces available at Brownies and Guides. Please see www.girlguiding.org.uk for more information, or contact us directly using witchfordrainbows@gmail.com / witchfordbrownies@gmail.com / witchford.guides@gmail.com.

Would you like to volunteer with Girlguiding? We help all girls to know they can do anything! Are you curious, adaptable, thoughtful, ambitious? Could your skills compliment Girlguiding in Witchford? Please see www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested for more information.

Your local Girlguiding leaders, Ellen, Robyn, Brown Owl, Arctic Owl, Butterfly and Squirrel.

Activities and events:



DATES:
TUESDAY 27TH MAY -
FRIDAY 30TH MAY

TAX CREDITS & CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

MAY HALF TERM

SPRING MEADOW HOLIDAY CLUB

8.00 - 5.45 pm - £35
9.00 - 4.00 pm - £27

Bookings

SCAN THE QR CODE OR
info@ctiveplayeducation.co.uk

play



HADDENHAM ARTS CENTRE

Saturday 31st May 2025

£35 per session
or
£60 for both if booking both directly through the art centre

Facepaint Like a Pro

Florals, Butterflies and Rainbows (10:00-12:30)
&
Animals and Nature (1:30-3:00)

Join us at the Haddenham Arts Centre for a day of face painting fun! Taught by Emma Cammack, an industry expert, the course will cover all aspects of face painting health and safety as well as the skills needed to create beautiful designs. Suitable for beginners or those with some experience & ideal for those looking to face paint for fun, have an income sideline or fund raise.

To book please contact the Haddenham Arts Centre
Phone; 01353 749188
Email; haddenhamarts@gmail.com



SEA HORSE SWIM SCHOOL

5 DAY INTENSIVE COURSE

BOOK NOW!

Intensive swimming lessons

SESSION DATES
MONDAY 26TH MAY - FRIDAY 30TH MAY
5 DAY INTENSIVE COURSE
£110 PER SWIMMER

KING'S ELY HEATED OUTDOOR POOL

INDEPENDENT LESSONS FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES
30 MINUTES LESSONS FROM 9-11AM
FUN SWIMMING LESSONS
3:1 CLASS RATIO

01353 482 492
www.seahorseswimely.co.uk

Fostering in Cambridgeshire:

Thinking of fostering?
Come along and learn more.

FosterEast

Cambridgeshire County Council

Monday 19 May 2025
7.30 - 8.30pm
Main Hall
The Lighthouse Centre
13 Lynn Road
Ely CB7 4EG

Providing a safe, loving family for a child or young person is a deeply rewarding experience. Many people consider fostering at some point - how about now?

What will be included in this information session:

- The basics of fostering
- Why children in Cambridgeshire need care
- The types of fostering arrangements and how they might be right for you
- Stories from local carers about the difference they've made in children's lives and how fostering has enriched their own lives
- Opportunity for questions and discussion

Get in touch with us:
0800 052 0078 fostering@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Term dates for 2025 – 2026:

Term dates for next academic year are now available on the website and can be found [here](#).

Uniform orders:

Uniform items for school and pre-school pupils (**including jumpers and cardigans**) are now available from Sigma.

Pre-School: [Clubs & Groups - Sigma Embroidery & Printing](#)

Primary School: [Clubs & Groups - Sigma Embroidery & Printing](#)

Orders must be placed by parents and carers and can be collected from Sigma Embroidery on Sedgeway Business Park, Witchford.

Attendance:

The Rackham has an updated policy on Attendance. Please follow this [link](#) to read the policy on the school website.

Thank you to all our parents and carers for supporting our drive for improved attendance. The Government has identified a child's attendance of 96% and above is the key figure to give best chance of academic progress. Please can we remind you that absence must be reported to the office by 9am on each day of absence.

This week's attendance: 95.0%

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

Best wishes,

Miss Turner



Dates for your diary:

12 th May	Y6 SATs week
21 st May	Year 5/6 Colchester Zoo trip
22 nd May	Last day of term for pupils
23 rd May	Professional Development Day for teachers
26 th May	HALF TERM
2 nd June	Year 6 Bikeability Y6 this week
5 th June	Reception Classes Parent meal (booking required nearer the time)
9 th June	EYFS History off the Page event
12 th June	Class photos (Pre-School to Year 6)
19 th June	Year 1 trip to Audley End House and Gardens
20 th June	Year 2 trip to Audley End House and Gardens
27 th June	Year 3/4 History off the Page event
27 th June	Non uniform 'bring a bottle day' for FWR Funday Sunday
29 th June	Funday Sunday
2 nd July	FWR Disco – Reception to Year 6 (booking required nearer the time)
7 th July	Move up afternoon
10 th July	Pre-School, EYFS and KS1 Sports Day (booking required nearer the time)
11 th July	KS2 Sports Day (booking required nearer the time)
16 th July	Parent's Evening (booking required nearer the time)
17 th July	Parent's Evening (booking required nearer the time)
17 th July	Reserve Sports Day for Pre-School, EYFS and KS1
18 th July	Reserve Sports Day for KS2
21 st July	Year 6 Leaver's BBQ (booking required nearer the time)
22 nd July	Year 6 Leaver's Assembly to parents and carers (booking required nearer the time)
22 nd July	Year 6 Parent or carer school buffet invitation
22 nd July	Last day for children
23 rd July	Professional Development Day for teachers
	SUMMER HOLIDAY