Heathland Whitefriars Federation

Heathland School
Eastcote Lane, Harrow HA2 9AG
Phone: 020 8422 4503
Email: office@heathland.harrow.sch.uk
Website: www.heathlandschool.net
Headteacher: Miss F R Hopkins

Whitefriars School
Whitefriars Avenue, Harrow HA3 5RQ
Phone: 020 8427 2080
Email: office@whitefriars.harrow.sch.uk
Websites: www.whitefriarsschool.net
Headteacher: Mr P K Vekaria

Dear Parents and Carers,

Previously there have been many articles in the news which draw attention to the popular internet game **'Roblox'**, which many children at Heathland, of different ages, have talked about using. Over the past week, there have been various incidents within school that have arisen from children having access to the game Roblox and the chat feature. We wanted to take this opportunity to give parents some advice around the game and what we can all do to help keep children safe online.

The UK Safer Internet Centre has published the following information to help ensure parents and carers are aware of the functions of Roblox, and can monitor their children's usage of this game. The full guide to this information can be found at Roblox - a guide for parents - UK Safer Internet Centre

The main points they want people to be aware of are:

1) There is now an age verification feature which, when set up, means that players aged 12 and under can be restricted in who they chat to and not have access to the voice chat. However, if this is not set up properly, it is possible for children to come into contact with inappropriate language and unknown users.
2) Content is user generated. This means that some games may not be appropriate for children, for example, they may feature weapons.
3) There is an in-game currency called 'Robux' which can be exchanged for real money. Children should be aware of this function so that they do not access it without permission. Be aware that there are third party sites which offer cheap Robux.

The first step in ensuring a primary age child is safe using this game is to check that they are registered at the correct age so that the under-13 settings can be activated. The chat can also be disabled, further account restrictions put into place, and a Parent Pin can be used. There is also a detailed Parents Guide on the Roblox website.

We will continue to talk to our children about staying safe online in their Computing lessons and hope that these are conversations you can carry on at home, with a particular focus on Roblox.

For further information, please access www.saferinternet.org.uk. Look out for information about a parent workshop on Internet Safety coming soon.

Yours Sincerely,

Miss Hopkins
Headteacher

Heathland Whitefriars Federation, a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales, company number 09066965.
Registered office address: Heathland School, Eastcote Lane, Harrow HA2 9AG