**Setting Up Parental Controls on Devices**

**Introduction:** Parental controls are essential for ensuring your child's safety online. They are available on various devices, including computers, smartphones, tablets, and gaming systems. While not foolproof, they provide an added layer of protection against inappropriate content. It's crucial to use age-appropriate settings to filter, monitor, and block your child's activities.

**Key Points:**

1. **Parental Control Functions:**
   * Setting specific time limits.
   * Controlling or blocking access to games.
   * Restricting the use of specific programs.
   * Managing content that children can search for online.
2. **Internet Service Provider Controls:**
   * Easily manage controls across all devices at home.
   * Most providers offer free parental control features.
3. **Computer Operating System Controls:**
   * Windows, Apple, and Chrome OS provide free and easy-to-follow parental control options.
4. **Smartphones and Tablets Controls:**
   * Enable controls to limit functions like in-app purchases, social networks, and app store access.
5. **Internet Browser and Search Engine Controls:**
   * Activate parental controls on browsers to manage website access.
   * Use search engine controls to filter content.
6. **Video Sites and Game Consoles Controls:**
   * Set up controls on platforms like YouTube, Netflix, and game consoles to restrict content.
7. **Social Media Apps Controls:**
   * Platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and Snapchat offer family pairing options for added safety.
8. **Tips for Conversations:**
   * Parental controls are not 100% effective; it's crucial to talk to your child about safe internet use.
   * Regularly update controls and settings based on your child's age and needs.

**Here in the Mercy Waterford we are striving for a safe and happy environment for your child to learn and achieve their goals. We understand a healthy balance between education mixed with sport or social interactions outside of school are extremely important for your child’s mental health.**

**As a school we cannot monitor your child’s use of technology outside of the classroom so we ask for your assistance on this matter. Parental controls are powerful tools to create a safer online environment for children. Combine these controls with open communication to ensure a well-rounded approach to internet safety.**