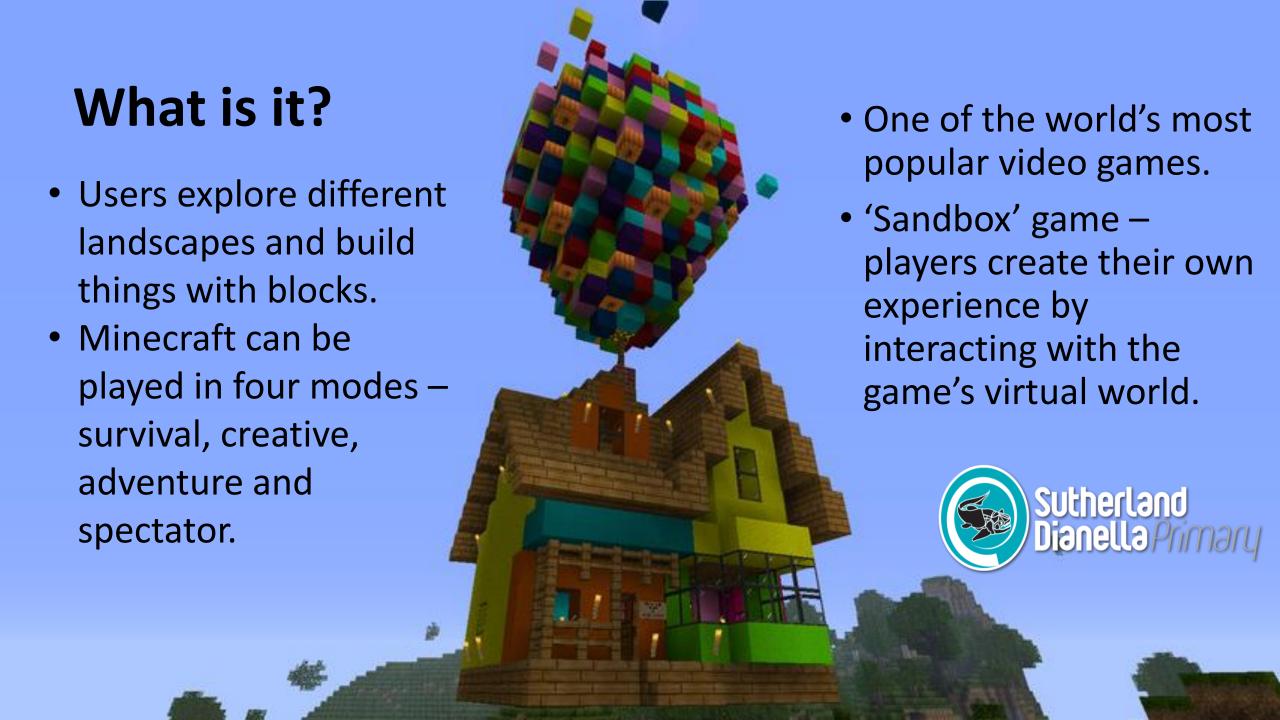


A PARENT'S GUIDE







Why is it so popular with children?

 Totally customisable – encourages kids to be creative and decide how they want to play.

Can be played socially or alone.

Can be played at any skill level.





Is it appropriate for young children?

- Terms and conditions say users should be 13 or older, but it's rated seven by PEGI and played by lots of young children.
- It's often compared to virtual Lego nothing about Minecraft is inherently inappropriate for children.
- If you let your child play there are lots of ways to help them stay safe.





Benefits of Minecraft

- Focus on building and exploring encourages creativity, problem solving and critical thinking.
- Children who play with friends could improve teamwork skills.
- Some parents of children with autism say the game can improve social skills and communication – there's even a server for children with autism and ADHD.
- Minecraft has been used in education to teach children about maths, computing, geography and more.





Single player vs multiplayer

Single player

- Safest mode.
- Users play by themselves and can't use the chat function to communicate with anyone else.
- Might be more appropriate for very young children.

Multiplayer

- Server-based version that lets multiple users play together in a single world.
- Players can communicate using the chat function – press T and then Enter to display the chat to others.
- Has some risks but can still be used safely.



Staying safe on multiplayer

- The safest multiplayer option is a private server, where only known friends and family can join.
- You can also search for profanity-free or family friendly servers.
- The chat function is great for collaborating with friends, but remind your children to be very careful about talking to anyone they don't know.





Minecraft YouTube videos

- Some users watch fan-created YouTube videos to learn more about the game.
- These videos are very popular 3.9 billion views in March 2015.





Minecraft YouTube videos – are they safe?

- Depends on the video some contain profanity or sexual references, or encourage bullying.
- Minecraft doesn't have any particularly upsetting content – but the monsters that appear in some modes might scare young children.
- Lots of Minecraft YouTube channels are specifically designed to be family friendly – like Minecraft Dad, SuperKevinCraft and Stampy.





Top tips for staying safe

- Have young children play in single player or on a private/age appropriate server only.
- Remind kids using multiplayer to be careful about sharing personal information or talking to people they don't know.
- Report inappropriate behaviour to a server moderator.
- Look for family friendly YouTube channels and pre-screen them if you're worried about profanity or upsetting content.
- Turn off monsters by playing in creative mode or setting difficulty to peaceful in survival mode.

Reporting

- Minecraft doesn't have a centralised reporting function for inappropriate behaviour.
- In multiplayer you can usually report to a server's operator (or moderator).
- Anyone acting sexually inappropriate towards a child anywhere online should be reported to CEOP https://www.ceop.police.uk/Ceop-Report/.
- Remind your children that they can always come to you if something makes them uncomfortable.

