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E safety information

We are sending this information to all parents as part of our duty to safeguard pupils and protect them from harm, both physical and emotional. We want to support you and your children in making positive decisions about what they do online and inform them of the possible negative impact so that they can play happily and safely.

On the one hand, gaming probably does not harm school performance itself - not as long as pupils do not play so much that they neglect school related activities like reading or skimping on sleep. It is vital that they play games that are age appropriate and do not cause emotional troubles. We have had many instances in school where it has been necessary to speak to pupils about their gaming habits outside of school. Some gaming is having an impact on pupils' ability to concentrate in school and their ability to maintain positive relationships.

There is evidence that playing games at night before bed can disrupt sleep, which can affect concentration and performance in school. The gaming industry has a rating for each game produced and children should not be exposed to games that are beyond their chronological age.

Age ratings are systems used to ensure that entertainment content, such as games, but also films, tv shows or mobile apps, is clearly labelled with a minimum age recommendation based on the content they have. **These age ratings provide guidance to consumers, parents in particular, to help them decide whether to buy a particular product for a child.** PEGI considers the age suitability of a game not the level of difficulty.

So that you can make informed judgments about the games your child is playing, the ratings and some popular game titles are listed below:



PEGI 3 this rating means the game is suitable for all ages and it should not have any frightening images or sounds. Mild comical violence is allowed but no bad language.

Games rated PEGI 3

Fifa

Mario Kart

Rocket league

Sonic Free riders

Pokemon Go



PEGI 7

Games with this rating can include sounds and images that may be frightening to very young children and mild violence is acceptable. Mild violence in this context means implied non-detailed and non-realistic.

Games rated PEGI7

- Crash Bandicoot
- Lego Worlds
- Minecraft
- Sonic Unleashed

WE HAVE NO CHILDREN ATTENDING OUR SCHOOL WHO ARE 12 OR OVER



PEGI 12

Violence gets slightly more graphic in this category and you may see acts of non-realistic violence towards human like characters. **Sexual innuendos or sexual posturing** might also be included in games with this rating.

Mild bad language and gambling images / references may also be present.

Games rated PEGI 12

- The legend of Zelda
- The shadow of Colossus
- The Sims 4
- Fortnite



PEGI 16 You will find this rating on games that present more **realistic life-like depictions of violence or sexual activity**. **Bad language is more prevalent and extreme and characters' use of drugs and alcohol may be used**.

Games rated PEGI 16

- Monster hunter
- EA sports UFC3



PEGI 18

This is an adult classification and a game of this rating may include **gross excessive violence with motiveless killing and / or violence toward innocent characters. Sexual activity and the use of drugs may be glamorized in games** with this PEGI rating.

Games rates PEGI 18

- Grand theft Auto
- Fallout 4
- Just Cause 2.3 and 4

We know from conversations with pupils that many children as young as 7 or 8 are playing on games that are labelled unsuitable for their age group.

THESE PEGI RATING LABELS ARE ON ALL GAMES AND CAN BE EASILY SEEN.

When your child plays on games it is useful to consider the following;

Who are they playing the game with?

Players do not have to identify themselves accurately or tell anyone their age.

When are they playing the games?

Remember these games are global and anyone in the world can play online with your child.

Where are they playing these games?

It is always preferable to have the games console in a public space, where you can monitor their actions, than in a bedroom.

Can you hear what is being said by players?

There is no control from the game makers over the potentially aggressive and offensive language used by players.

Do you know the game, its content and suitability?

You could ask to play with them and familiarise yourself with the game.

If you have any concerns over your child's use of computers there is a vast amount of information and guidance on line (some examples are below) and on our school website.

https://www.mullion-ji.cornwall.sch.uk/website/online_safety/89265

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/parents-ultimate-guides>

If school has concerns about a child's gaming we will contact parents to explain the situation. If school believes that any child is being exposed to inappropriate material we have a legal duty to contact the Multi Agency Referral Unit for support.