

Online Safety – March 2021

Well done to everyone for surviving the latest Covid lockdown. It hasn't been easy but you've made it and the children are very happy to be back in school!

Congratulations!

This seems a very timely opportunity to review how online learning has changed and evolved within the last year, within school and within your family settings. From getting to grips with scheduled Teams and Zoom meetings, to downloading and uploading work and even 1:1 online tutoring sessions with members of staff.

This academic year, we have already had online safety week which looked at staying safe online.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/safer-internet-day-resources/z6bbhbk>

(scroll down to 'Primary' videos).

We reminded the children not to share their usernames and passwords with others, not to talk to strangers online and not to give out personal information to others.



Now that school has opened to everyone, you probably never want to see a computer again! However, this is absolutely the right time to check and update your parental controls, ensure that devices have been updated and check you have adequate malware/anti-virus software.

Please take some time to look at <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides>


These parent friendly guides give you a very simple, but important overview of the main apps and games children are accessing at the moment and the dangers involved.

There is also the national online safety app which you can download to your phone or tablet - <https://info.nationalonlinesafety.com/mobile-app>

Age ratings are our biggest, current topic of discussion – please remember, your Infant School child should not be accessing movies or online games unsuitable for their age.


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What parents need to know about AGE RATINGS



bbfc

If you have children, it is understandable to have concerns about the films and TV shows they watch, as well as the games they play. In this guide, we take a look at the two official ways you can assess if a particular title is suitable for your child. Both the BBFC and PEGI have search facilities on their websites that can be used to look up individual titles so you can check their ratings.










PEGI

RATINGS FOR FILMS, TV & MUSIC VIDEOS

Since 1912, the BBFC (British Board of Film Classification) has informed UK residents of the age suitability of films, TV and music videos - providing parents with the information needed to assess whether or not it is appropriate for their child's age. This applies to cinema releases, DVDs and streaming video services such as Netflix.

WHAT ARE THE BBFC RATINGS?

BBFC ratings are broken down into seven age categories:

 U Universal, suitable for all ages	 PG Parental Guidance required	 12 Suitable for people aged 12 and over	 12A Suitable for people aged 12 and over: anyone younger must be accompanied by an adult
 15 Suitable for people aged 15 and over	 18 Suitable for people aged 18 and over	 R18 Adult content only available in specially licenced cinemas and specialist retailers	

WHAT ELSE CAN BBFC REVEAL?

Accompanied with the age suitability rating, BBFC also provide an additional warning regarding the content and what to expect, such as swearing, sexual content, violence and anything you may consider to be inappropriate for your child. In addition to this, the content is also rated in three levels: frequent, mild or strong.

LIMITATIONS OF BBFC RATINGS

It's important to note that there is no obligation on streaming video services to use or display BBFC ratings. Due to this, we advise that you check the rating online before your child streams the content. It may also be a good idea to watch the content first yourself or discuss it with other parents to help you decide whether or not it is suitable for your child.






RATINGS FOR GAMES

PEGI (Pan European Game Information) is a content rating system that ensures all video games are labelled with a minimum age recommendation. These age recommendations are based on the types of content featured within a game. With each game, PEGI also provide a content descriptor that indicates the potential issues and concerns, including sex, violence, bad language and drugs.









WHAT ARE THE PEGI RATINGS?

PEGI ratings are split into age restriction and content descriptors. Additional 'content descriptors' help parents and children to understand the type of content featured within a particular game, including sex, fear, bad language, discrimination, gambling, drugs, violence, and in-game purchases. In combination, the two different ratings can provide a good level of information to help make informed decisions regarding the suitability for your child.

PEGI age ratings are broken down into five categories:

 3 www.pegi.info	 7 www.pegi.info	 12 www.pegi.info	 16 www.pegi.info	 18 www.pegi.info
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PEGI content descriptors are broken down into eight categories:

							
FEAR	DRUGS	IN GAME PURCHASES	VIOLENCE	BAD LANGUAGE	DISCRIMINATION	GAMBLING	SEX

LIMITATIONS OF PEGI RATINGS

It's possible for young people to buy games online without a required proof of age, opening them up to age-inappropriate content without you knowing. We advise that you regularly monitor your child's gaming activities and maintain a honest and healthy dialogue with them about the online world.

PARENTAL CONTROLS

It is a good idea to put in place parental controls for all online accounts which your child may use to purchase or download online games e.g. The App Store, Google Play Store, PlayStation Store and Microsoft Xbox Store etc.

Source: www.bbfc.co.uk

Source: www.pegi.info

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 06.02.19

Children should not be accessing YouTube unsupervised. YouTube Kids is a much child friendlier version. Although 'YouTubers are cool', their content is not always age appropriate and, in several recent news stories, they have actually led to fake news and online hoaxes becoming a safeguarding concern. Please take the time to screen what your child is accessing and viewing.

ONLINE CONTENT

10 tips to keep your children safe online

The internet has transformed the ability to access content. Many apps that children use are dependent on user-generated content which can encourage freedom of expression, imagination and creativity. However, due to the sheer volume uploaded every day, it can be difficult for platforms to regulate and moderate everything, which means that disturbing or distressing images, videos or audio clips can slip through the net. That's why we've created this guide to provide parents and carers with some useful tips on keeping children safe online.



1 MONITOR VIEWING HABITS

Whilst most apps have moderation tools, inappropriate content can still slip through the net.



2 CHECK ONLINE CONTENT

Understand what's being shared or what seems to be 'trending' at the moment.



3 CHECK AGE-RATINGS

Make sure they are old enough to use the app and meet the recommended age-limit.



4 CHANGE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Make accounts private and set content filters and parental controls where possible.



5 SPEND TIME ON THE APP

Get used to how apps work, what content is available and what your child likes to watch.



6 LET CHILDREN KNOW YOU'RE THERE

Ensure they know that there is support and advice available to them if they need it.



7 ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Talk about what people might post online and why some posts could cause distress.



8 LEARN HOW TO REPORT & BLOCK

Always make sure that children know how to use the reporting tools on social media apps.



9 KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

If a child sees distressing material online; listen to their concerns, empathise and offer reassurance.




10 SEEK FURTHER SUPPORT


If a child has been affected by something they've seen online, seek support from your school's safeguarding lead.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday


Gaming

What Parents Need to Know About Call of Duty: Black Ops Cold War



Published 2nd December 2020

This week's free online safety guide focuses on Call of Duty: Black Ops Cold War. Call of Duty: Black Ops Cold War (CoD) is an online first-person shooter. The guide takes a look at how to tackle a range of potential risks such as graphic violence & language, in-game payments and talking to strangers.

Please remember – it is **NOT** appropriate for children at the Infant School OR Junior School to be playing age 18 rated games such as Call of Duty Black Ops or Grand Theft Auto. This includes watching siblings or parents play the game!

These games contain violence, swearing, nudity and crime related activities and are rated 18 for a reason.

Most social media accounts have an age restriction on them of 13 years old. Young children should not be accessing WhatsApp, Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat or Instagram.

Age Restrictions On Social Media					
13	14	16	17	18	18
Twitter Facebook Instagram Pinterest Google+ Tumblr Reddit Snapchat	LinkedIn	WhatsApp	Vine Tinder	Path	(CS with parents consent) YouTube Keek Foursquare WeChat Kik Flickr

Children at Turnfurlong Infant School are very computer literate and understand that in school our filtering systems do not allow inappropriate content through. At home however, they may be able to download apps, games and YouTube content which could cause distress if parental controls are not set appropriately.



ZIP IT

Keep your personal stuff private and think about what you say and do online.



BLOCK IT

Block people who send nasty messages and don't open unknown links and attachments.



FLAG IT

Flag up with someone you trust if anything upsets you or if someone asks to meet you offline.

Please help us to keep your children safe!