

## Internet Safety

Every year in school we hold an online safety week during which we look at staying safe online.

Whilst we reinforce these messages in school, it is also helpful for staff, if you can check the parental controls on your devices and reinforce these key safety messages at home.

There are lots of online resources available, suited to EYFS and KS1 including:-

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/safer-internet-day-resources/z6bbhbk> (scroll down to 'Primary' videos).

[Keeping safe online - BBC Bitesize](#)

We remind 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.




Please check your parental controls, ensuring that devices have been updated and checking you have adequate malware/ anti-virus software.

Please take some time to look through the free guides at [Educational Guides | E-safety Guides & Posters for Schools \(nationalcollege.com\)](#)

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. They also cover topics which are in the media currently.

There is also the national online safety app which you can download to your phone or tablet - [National Online Safety 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. Young children should not be watching age restricted games or movies which their older siblings may be viewing.



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# What parents need to know about AGE RATINGS

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.

### 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.

### 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 BBFC RATINGS?

BBFC ratings are broken down into seven age categories:

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

### 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:

 <a href="http://www.pegi.info">www.pegi.info</a>	 <a href="http://www.pegi.info">www.pegi.info</a>	 <a href="http://www.pegi.info">www.pegi.info</a>	 <a href="http://www.pegi.info">www.pegi.info</a>	 <a href="http://www.pegi.info">www.pegi.info</a>
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PEGI content descriptors are broken down into eight categories:



### 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 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.

### 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.

### 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.

Children **should not** be accessing Youtube unsupervised. Youtube kids is a much child friendlier version. Although 'Youtubers' may be 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 watching.

# 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.

 **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 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					
<b>13</b> Twitter Facebook Instagram Pinterest Google+ Tumblr Reddit Snapchat	<b>14</b> LinkedIn	<b>16</b> WhatsApp	<b>17</b> Vine Tinder	<b>18</b> Path	<b>18</b> iOS with parents (Family) YouTube Keeek 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.

In school we use the phrase 'Zip it! Block it! Flag it!' to encourage the children to keep their passwords safe, close websites they are not sure about using the 'cross' function and to tell an adult if they click on inappropriate content accidentally.

Please help us to keep your children safe!