

24th September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

Recently we have noticed a high interest of the game 'Fortnite' circulating around the school. As this game is becoming very popular we just wanted to make you more informed about the game and how to keep your child safe whilst playing it.

Are there any age restrictions?

Fortnite is rated 12+ by PEGI, Pan European Game Information for its frequent scenes of mild violence, meaning it is deemed unsuitable for children under the age of 12. This rating is simply advisory for parents. As with all games of this type, children younger than 12 are engaging with the game.

What steps can you take to safeguard your child?

- If opening account, it is important that they do not create a username that could give away any personal details. There is also no age verification process. Therefore, be aware of the risks if your child has, or wants to, open an account.
- Fortnite offers three levels of privacy settings: Public, where anyone can enter your child's online party; Friends, where only friends can join a party; and Private, which means that no one can enter your child's party without being invited by the child themselves. Discuss the level appropriate to your child.
- Fortnite also allows for Voice-Chat to be disabled. Make yourself and your child familiar with the game's settings and, if you deem it inappropriate, turn Voice-Chat off.

- Speak to your child about unwanted contact and tell them what to do if someone speaks to them in a nasty or inappropriate way, or asks them for personal information. Ask them to come to you if they are unsure about unwanted contact or have been exposed to something inappropriate.

How can you report inappropriate contact between my child and another player?

- Fortnite offers an in-game feedback tool in the Main Menu of the game to report bad player behaviour. You can also email Epic Games, the creator of Fortnite, through their website - reporting any concerns you may have.
- You can also seek advice and make a report to CEOP, Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command, through their online safety centre.

To help further with understanding current apps/games that your child might be using/playing and the risks of them please visit <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> or download the app 'Net Aware'. This will inform you how to use the app, what the risks are, content of the app/game and parent/children views.

If you need any further support or have any concerns, please contact Miss Barrasso/Mrs Garn/ Mrs Sutton.

Thank you,

Miss Barrasso (ICT Co-ordinator) & Mrs Garn (ICT Technician)