

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019

### Fortnite and Online Games

Dear Parents / Carers,

It has been brought to my attention that a lot of children in school are playing online games, including Fortnite on their games consoles at home.

Although these games are very popular, they are aimed at older children and there are associated risks that you may not be aware of.

I have found some advice from the NSPCC which is highlighted below:

“Fortnite: Battle Royale has several features that can be fun, but there are also risks. These include:

- Players can add friends in the mobile game if they have an account with Epic, the game’s developer. Friends can be added by username in the game’s main menu.
- There is a chat feature in the game that allows users to contact each other using voice or text. You can disable voice chat in the game by selecting the 3 lines in the top right of the screen, select the settings icon, choose the ‘Audio’ tab at the top of the screen and go to the ‘Voice Chat’ option, where you can select ‘Off’.
- There is cartoon violence in the game. You can use a variety of weapons to kill other players, such as guns and axes.
- There are in-app purchases, which can become expensive.

### **Age ratings**

Here are the recommended age ratings for the game:

- Epic Games: Fortnite Battle Royale says it does not direct the game to children under the age of 13 in the UK.
- The PEGI rating for this game is 12 years old. However, PEGI does not take chat features into consideration when rating games “.

**The NSPCC give the following TEAM tips to help keep your child safe online when playing online games:**

- **Talk** to your child regularly about what they are doing online and how to stay safe. Let them know they can come to you or another trusted adult if they're feeling worried or upset by anything they have seen.
- **Explore** your child's online activities with your child. Understand why they like using them and make sure they know what they can do to keep themselves safe.
- **Agree** your own rules as a family when using sites, apps and games.
- **Manage** your technology and use the settings available to keep your child safe.

I hope that this guidance is useful and helps you to make informed decisions about the appropriateness of the online games that your child may be playing.

If you require any more support, the following websites are a good source of information for parents.

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents)

[www.parentzone.org.uk](http://www.parentzone.org.uk)

[www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety)

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Davies



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“Teach a child how to live and they will remember it all of their lives.”

**Proverbs 22:6**