



ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER

September 2021

Welcome to this month's issue of our online safety newsletter! We hope that this continues to inform you on how you can help your children stay safe online and things you need to be aware of such as new apps, games, and more! As this is the first issue of the new school year, the focus will be mainly on reminding you of online safety tips to help keep your children safe online.



MR SMITH'S GAME WATCH

This month's game—**PEGI ratings!**

Video games are rated using the PEGI system. PEGI rates games across 5 different age groups, these are **3, 7, 12, 16 and 18**. These ratings can be found on the box of a game or on the page used to purchase the game. If a game is rated as 16, it means that the game is not suitable for those under the age of 16. The PEGI rating considers the age suitability of a game, not the level of difficulty. (Source: <https://pegi.info/>)

As well as giving a game an age rating, PEGI rates the game based on the features of the game. These are shown through icons to easily identify what type of content is within the game, for example drugs, bad language or gambling.

A full description of each 'content descriptor' is available here: <https://pegi.info/what-do-the-labels-mean>

What can you do?

Age ratings are there to protect your child and ensure that your child is only playing games suitable to their age or stage of development and reduce any potential risks. Talk to your child about why games and apps have an age rating and set clear ground rules. You can also:

- ⇒ Set up parental controls on your child's devices
- ⇒ Download the PEGI app (<https://pegi.info/app>) to allow you to quickly search for games to find out what age they are suitable for



ARE YOU A POS?

It is really important that you are a POS to your children (Parent Over Shoulder) when they are using any technology at home. There are a lot of issues that are brought into school that can be avoided by keeping a watchful eye on your child's online activity.



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CYBERBULLYING/CHATting ONLINE

If it's unacceptable offline then it's unacceptable online

As the adult responsible for your child, it is really important to talk to your child about how they behave online, if they choose to use any type of technology, such as through messenger apps or game chats, to call somebody names or spread hurtful rumours then they are involved in online bullying. The more you have a conversation about how your child speaks to others online, the less likely it is for your child to say something or do something harmful to others online. Make sure that you talk to your child, ask them how they would feel if the same was said or done to them?

What are your children saying online?

It can be very easy online for children to behave in a way that they wouldn't if they were face to face with each other as they are not talking face to face to their peer or the other child may not know it is them. Talk to your children about how they are speaking to others online. Childnet have some great advice in response to two key questions your child might wish to ask your child:

What makes a good friend online?

What should I do if someone is mean to me?

What can I do if my child is getting bullied?

Explain to them what to do if somebody is mean to them online, explain that they shouldn't respond to them. Show them how to use reporting tools and emphasise they should always talk to a trusted adult.

MONITORING APPS

Would you like to monitor what your child is doing online? The best app to use will be dependent on what devices your child is using but this helpful article from Internet Matters reviews the top monitoring apps for you:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/monitoring-apps-parents-guide/>

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. If you would like to make any suggestions or comments regarding this newsletter then please contact Mr Smith on
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If you have any questions or concerns then please contact either Mrs Crozier, Mrs Rogman or Mrs Had-