



KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE - GAMING



WATCOMBE PRIMARY SCHOOL

SPRING 2016



GAMING & PEGI RATINGS

Should I allow my child to spend time playing electronic games?

This is a question of parental choice. There are lots of new skills which can be developed through gaming such as problem solving, hand-eye co-ordination, working with others and developing a strategy.

However, as with most things in life, it is probably important that there is balance between gaming and other sorts of recreational activities for children.



What concerns are there about gaming?

It is becoming more of a concern that some children are exposed to games with content which is not appropriate to their age. This can include games which involve violence, offensive language, drug taking and sexual activity. Sometimes parents knowingly let their children play these games but very often parents do not realise that their child is playing on them or they are not fully aware of the content of the games.

How can I check the content of games?

There is a useful website <https://www.common sense media.org/> where you can look up games (plus movies, websites, books etc). The site can give you useful information at a glance so that you can make an informed decision as to whether it is something which you wish your child to be exposed to. Alternatively you can use the age ratings on gaming products.

What is an age rating?

Age ratings ensure that the content of games (plus films, DVDs etc) is clearly labelled for the minimum age group for which it is suitable. Age ratings provide guidance to consumers to help them decide whether or not to buy a particular product.

Since 2003 all games have a PEGI rating. The PEGI rating on a game confirms that it contains suitable content for an age group and above. So, a 7-rated game is suitable for everyone who is seven or older while an 18-rated game is deemed suitable only for adults.

What do the PEGI ratings mean?

				
Age Rating 3 Appropriate for children from three years of age	Age Rating 7 Appropriate for children from seven years of age	Age Rating 12 Appropriate for children from twelve years of age	Age Rating 16 Appropriate for people from sixteen years of age	Age Rating 18 Appropriate for people from eighteen years of age

In the UK, PEGI 12, 16 and 18 ratings are legally enforceable meaning that they cannot be supplied to persons below those ages.

What do the PEGI descriptors mean?

		
Violence Contains depictions of violence	Bad Language Contains bad and / or offensive language	Fear May be frightening to younger children
		
Sexual Content Contains depictions of nudity and / or references to sexual behaviour	Drugs Contains the use or glamorisation of alcohol and / or drugs	Discrimination Can only appear on games rated 18 containing depictions of ethnic, religious, nationalistic or other stereotypes that could encourage hatred
		
Gambling May encourage or teach gambling	Online Can be played online	

What should I do now?



Please take some time to review the games that you child/children may be playing. Check the PEGI ratings and descriptors, have a look at the information on

<https://www.common sense media.org/>. Hopefully this will help you to feel well-informed as a parent. If you require any help or support with this or any other e-safety issue then please feel free to contact us.

What will the school do if an e-safety concern is raised?

We will take action if a problem comes to our attention that involves the safety or wellbeing of any of our children. Each incident is fully documented and outcomes recorded. School staff will liaise with and support parents to deal with incidents which happen out of school time. All school staff receive specialist e-safety training regularly.

E-safety incidents should be reported to one of the Designated Safeguarding Staff within school.



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