

Online Games

In recent weeks, there has been a new game, Fortnite, that has become increasingly popular. The game, which is an online combat game, involves many features that are a real potential for an unpleasant experience for our young people.



Fortnite violence dangers

A good place to start is with the age rating information. In the UK the Video Standards council rate Fortnite as PEGI 12 for frequent scenes of mild violence. This means that it is illegal for anyone under the age of 12 to purchase the game for themselves.

The VSC states why it gave the game a 12 rating. "Violence consists of you using whatever weapons you can find or make to fend off the monsters of the Storm and save the survivors. Damage is dealt by numbers and life bars and monsters disappear in a purple flash when defeated."

Fortnite online dangers

As with any online game, parents need to take care they understand who children are interacting with and what specific information can be exchanged. This area of the game's content is created by other players and therefore falls outside of the game ratings.

While playing the game, players can hear swearing from others as well as exchange voice chat messages with strangers. Because Battle Royale is played by hundreds of people at once, the range of people they encounter will be wide.

Fortnite in-app costs

Although the Battle Royale part of the Fortnite game is free to play. There are a number of potential costs associated with the game.

To play online on Xbox you need a subscription to the Xbox Gold service which is £39.99 for 12 months. On PlayStation you do not need PlayStation Plus.

Also the game encourages players to purchase outfits and moves to distinguish their player-character from others in the game. These include items like new clothes and equipment as well as being able to perform particular dance-taunts.

Much of the information above is taken from the Pocket-lint website, which gives more details on these dangers. A link to this is on our website, see the Online Safety section.

Behaviour Online

It is worthwhile, at this time, reviewing how young people interact online. We are regularly made aware of problems with pupils not being able to interact well with each other whilst online through a combination of texting, messaging, 'online -parties', chats and online game messages. It is important for the safety and well-being of your child to monitor closely how they are behaving whilst online. We run a series of sessions throughout the year which educate and reinforce these messages.

For more information about this, we have various useful links on the Online Safety section of our school website.