



Online Safety Newsletter: Age Ratings 2021



Written by Miss Kerry (Computing Coordinator)

One of the areas which we focus on in our Technology and Computing curriculum is:



I know that it is important to play games which are suitable for my age.

Many of our children tell us about the video and online games they are playing, the apps they use and about the content they are viewing on the internet, at home. What we are told is usually appropriate for the age of the children in our school.

However, some of our children are telling us that they are worried, scared and frightened by what they are seeing. Some children are also 'acting out' what they are seeing in their play, meaning that their play can become rough. It can be hard for young children to distinguish between reality and the online world.

Which is why ensuring that your child is using/viewing age-appropriate games, apps and content is so important.

A game's age rating can be used by adults to make an informed choice as to whether or not a game is suitable for their child. The PEGI (Pan European Game Information) system rates games and, instead of indicating the level of ability required to physically play a game, it indicates the suitability of content for that age group.

3, 7, 12, 16 and 18 are the labels that can be awarded to games and a variety of content descriptors such as violence, bad language and fear are used to further clarify why the label was assigned.

You can find a guide for what each of the PEGI ratings means:

<https://pegi.info/what-do-the-labels-mean>

Fortnite is popular with lots of children. However, it is rated **PEGI 12** because of frequent mild violence which means it is not considered suitable for persons under 12 years of age.

The risk of not following the age rating system is that children may view or hear age-inappropriate content. Many games now include scenes of a violent or graphic nature which could be upsetting or considered too intense for younger players.

If you are unsure of an age rating for an online game; then you can always use Google to check, speak to a member of Staff in School or you can use www.pegi.info and search for the game title.

On Tapestry you can find guidance on 'How to set up Parental Controls to limit age-inappropriate content', one is for android phones and the other is for iPhones.