



Safeguarding Newsletter - July 2018

Edition 2

A Focus on Safer Online Behaviours over Summer



As the summer holidays begin, many children and young people will often spend an increased amount of time online whether it is using the latest apps, playing their favourite games, watching their favourite vloggers or simply keeping in touch with friends through social media. For parents and carers, it offers us a good opportunity to have a positive discussion about their favourite sites, apps or games and agree some expectations about how much time they are allowed and what they should do if something concerns them.



Keeping in touch: During the summer break, many young people may use social media to keep in touch with their friends or stay updated on what's happening. It is a good opportunity to find out which apps are their favourites and for younger children, remind them they must be at least 13 to use most popular social networking sites. Encourage them to make sure they have privacy settings in place, why this is important and only to share appropriate content with those they know and trust in real life.

Tip: If you aren't sure what the different apps are or what they do, check out the excellent NetAware site from the NSPCC & O2 (www.net-aware.org.uk).

Time Online: Without the normal structure that typically comes with being at school, children may find it challenging to manage their time online appropriately. Agreeing some time limits and setting out expectations beforehand can help to avoid difficult discussions later - if they have only just started to play a team game online only to find their allocated time is up can understandably lead to frustrations.

Online Friendships: The holidays are also a good opportunity to talk to our children about their online friendships and encourage positive behaviour by discussing what makes a good online friend. It is very important that they also understand that just because they may have been chatting to a friendly person on a site or through a game for some time, if they only know them online, then they are still a stranger and they must not give out any personal details. If you or your child are worried about an adult pressuring them online, you should contact the Police immediately.

Tip: Remember many console games are online multiplayer environments but children may not make the connection and think 'stay safe online' messages only apply to websites or social media. Make sure they understand how online safety rules apply to the gaming world too.



Sharing Photos: Many children and young people will understandably want to share photos and videos of their holiday activities and this gives us a good opportunity to discuss what types of photos and videos are okay to share and who they can be shared with. Make sure they understand that photos and selfies can give away personal information without them realising it. Remember, only sharing with our real friends is important - stop and think carefully about who might see your Social Media post about the fantastic time you are having on holiday (this goes for adults too!) - friends, relatives, work colleagues, burglars...if you have posted it for all to see on Facebook, they know your house might just be empty!

Tip #1: If going abroad, check if your mobile network has additional roaming charges so you can avoid unexpected bills.

Tip #2: Consider just sharing your holiday posts with friends on direct messaging services (e.g. WhatsApp) and save those Facebook updates until you get back home.

Tip #3: Many apps include location sharing functions. Check the settings in apps and know what information you and your children may already be sharing.

In addition, Childnet have some excellent Summer advice to support staying safe online which can be found at: www.childnet.com/blog/staying-safe-online-in-the-summer-holidays

A Parent's Guide to Fortnite: Battle Royale



What is Fortnite?

Fortnite is an online game, Battle Royale is a part of Fortnite where players do not have to pay to play. In Battle Royal, the free segment of Fortnite, 100 players compete against each other to be the last person standing in player vs player (PVP) combat. Users are playing against people of different ages from across the world, and Fortnite has in game audio chat so that players can talk and interact with each other as they play.

What age rating is Fortnite?

Fortnite has a **PEGI rating of 12**, PEGI have said this is due to the: *'frequent scenes of mild violence. It is not suitable for persons under 12 years of age'*.

This PEGI rating only takes into account the content in the game and not the contact element, where players may be exposed to swearing and offensive language from strangers in voice or on-screen text chat.

What do I need to know?

- **You need to create an account**
In order to play Fortnite you have to create an account. To create this account, you need to provide an email address (which you will have to verify) and display/user name. However, you are not asked your age in order to create an account.
- **You are playing against other players**
As Fortnite is an online game you will play against players of different ages from across the world. You **cannot** turn this communication off or choose who you play against.
- **You can make in game purchases**
Although Battle Royale is free to play, other aspects of the game are not. There are packs which give you different access to the full game and extensions, bonuses and weapons. These start at £34.99 and go up to £119.99. The game does ask players to make additional in-game purchases whilst playing, though these are not required to play the game.
- **The graphics**
Fortnite does feature violence when players are in combat with each other, the animation of the game is very cartoonish, and the violence isn't bloody or gory. However, it is worth noting that the aim of Fortnite is to defeat other players by fighting against them.
- **Where you can play**
Fortnite is currently available on PC, Mac, PlayStation and Xbox , and will soon be available on IOS (apple products). It is downloadable from the Fortnite website, this download gives access to both the free and paid for versions of the game.

Advice for Parents

- **Have an open and honest conversation with your child**

It's important to involve yourself in your child's online life and a simple and effective way to this is by talking to them about their life online. Try to maintain an open dialogue with your child and find opportunities to talk to them about what they love to do online. Parents can help children access the amazing resources the internet has to offer whilst keeping them safe online at the same time.

Asking your child about how they play Fortnite and what they like about it is a great way to start a conversation. Our conversation starters can help you to have this conversation.

Conversation starter ideas:

- Ask your children to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online.
- Ask them about how they stay safe online. What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them? What is OK and not OK to share?
- Ask them if they know where to go for help, where to find the safety advice, privacy settings and how to report or block on the services they use.
- Encourage them to help. Perhaps they can show you how to do something better online or they might have a friend who would benefit from their help and support.
- Think about how you use the internet as a family. What could you do to get more out of the internet together and further enjoy your lives online?

- **Play with them**

It may seem daunting, but one of the best things that you can do is to engage with the gaming environment and begin to understand what makes Fortnite so attractive to young people, as well as giving yourself an idea of the reporting tools available within the game.

- **Know how to make a report**

On Fortnite you can report players who are behaving inappropriately by using the in-game feedback tool located in the game Main Menu.