



NOVEMBER 2018 ISSUE

Dear Parents,

In the digital world we now live E-Safety is an ongoing focus within our school. As such we will be sending out monthly updates regarding eSafety and the use of digital technology. This month's focus is the game Fortnite.

### **A parents guide to Fortnite: Battle Royale**

Recently we have noticed an increasing number of our pupils talking about the game 'Fortnite'.

What is Fortnite?

Fortnite is an online game, which includes Battle Royale, where players do not have to pay to play. In Battle Royale, 100 players compete against each other to be the last person standing in player vs player (PVP) combat.



Users play against people of different ages from across the world, **and can talk and interact with each other as they play through the in-game chat feature**. This is an area that can cause cyber bullying and your child hearing inappropriate language for their age. **This can be from unknown gamers and also from peers and should be carefully monitored.**

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, either through audio 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 the in game chats 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. There have been incidents of children spending money in this way without them really understanding that they are accessing real money. **Please make sure your account does not allow children to do this.**

### **There is animated violence**

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

- 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.
- 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, **you can also make a report by emailing the creators of Fortnite.**
- See what other people think of Fortnite  
Common Sense Media allow parents and young people to give their reviews of games that they have played. They have created a very useful **video guide to Fortnite with footage of the gameplay involved.**

## **Knock on Effects**

The amount of time a child plays on this game can become addictive and have an impact on them in school. Children talk about it all the time, including in lessons and have mimicked the game (pretend shooting) in lessons and at break times. Whilst this may seem minor it distracts from their education and means they are less focussed. The dances used by the characters are also very popular and the children use these in school. Again, while this may seem minor, it can be distracting to their learning and that of their peers.

As with any online dangers. If you are concerned about anything you see online contact CEOP through the widely available link.

