



Online Safety Newsletter March 2018



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our first Online Safety Newsletter. We understand children love to use technology and spend a lot of their spare time using games consoles, smart phone and tablets. In school, we teach children to use technology safely and become responsible digital citizens. However, we also understand that children use technology at home and value parents support in keeping children safe and encouraging them to be respectful when online.

We will be sending online safety newsletters termly to advise parents of the latest trends and issues with games and technology, offering support and guidance. In this newsletter we have focused on two popular games which children in school have been talking about recently. If you would like information on other games, apps or devices in future newsletters please let us know. Also if you have any further concerns or queries please don't hesitate to contact us.

Regards Mrs J Egglestone - Online Safety Co-Ordinator

What is Fortnite?

Fortnite is a video game for PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Windows, and Mac that takes elements from sandbox-building games (such as Minecraft) and adds the fast-paced action of a third-person shooter. There are two modes to the game: a solo version called *Save the World* and the hugely popular multiplayer version called *Battle Royale*.

Is Fortnite appropriate for children?

For some parents, the cartoonish, bloodless style of the action in *Fortnite* makes the violence less problematic than the aggressive gore in other popular shooter games. But, the game's online chat feature could expose younger players to offensive language or mature content from random strangers.

The official PEGI rating for *Fortnite* is 12+ and some content is not suitable for younger children. Advice from, Common Sense Media and Safer Internet Centre is games with open chat are not recommended for children under 13.

For further information on this game, please visit

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-fortnite#whatis>

What is Roblox?

Roblox is a gaming platform where multiple players interact and play together online. Roblox is currently available on PC, phone, tablet and Xbox One. Users create every game on Roblox, these can vary from delivering pizzas, to roaming a kingdom as a medieval knight, to even starring in a fashion show. This variety is one of the reasons that Roblox is so popular.

Is Roblox appropriate for children?

Whilst Roblox is aimed at children people of all ages can play the game and access the online chat facility. Roblox does have parental controls, which can restrict and turn off some of the chat facilities. The Roblox Studio is a section where players use their imagination and skills to create their own games and share these with others. Because the content is user-generated, it can mean that some games might not be appropriate for young children. For example, whilst the graphics are not very life like, some of the games feature weapons and blood.

For further information on this game please visit

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/roblox-guide-parents>