



Safeguarding Update

February 2020

Issue 23

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.



Action for Carers have a series of information sessions/workshops including the following:

- Autism Workshop: Challenging Behaviour and Strategies**
28th February 2020, 10:00 - 13:30
- Carer Mental Health**
3rd March 2020, 10:00 - 15:30

For further information or to register an interest please visit: actionforcarers.org.uk

Childline
0800 11 11

Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership
Call us on
01372 833330

What parents need to know about AGE RATINGS

RATINGS FOR FILMS, TV & MUSIC VIDEOS

Since 1912, the BBFC (British Board of Film Classification) has informed UK residents of the age suitability of films, TV and music videos - providing parents with the information needed to assess whether or not it is appropriate for their child's age. This applies to cinema releases, DVDs and streaming video services such as Netflix.

WHAT ARE THE BBFC RATINGS?

BBFC ratings are broken down into seven age categories:

- U**: Universal, suitable for all ages
- PG**: Parental Guidance required
- 12**: Suitable for people aged 12 and over
- 12A**: Suitable for people aged 12 and over; anyone younger must be accompanied by an adult
- 15**: Suitable for people aged 15 and over
- 18**: Suitable for people aged 18 and over
- R18**: Adult content only available in specially licenced cinemas and specialist retailers

WHAT ELSE CAN BBFC REVEAL?

Accompanied with the age suitability rating, BBFC also provide an additional warning regarding the content and what to expect, such as swearing, sexual content, violence and anything you may consider to be inappropriate for your child. In addition to this, the content is also rated in three levels: frequent, mild or strong.

LIMITATIONS OF BBFC RATINGS

It's important to note that there is no obligation on streaming video services to use or display BBFC ratings. Due to this, we advise that you check the rating online before your child streams the content. It may also be a good idea to watch the content first yourself or discuss it with other parents to help you decide whether or not it is suitable for your child.

RATINGS FOR GAMES

PEGI (Pan European Game Information) is a content rating system that ensures all video games are labelled with a minimum age recommendation. These age recommendations are based on the types of content featured within a game. With each game, PEGI also provide a content descriptor that indicates the potential issues and concerns, including sex, violence, bad language and drugs.

WHAT ARE THE PEGI RATINGS?

PEGI ratings are split into age restriction and content descriptors. Additional 'content descriptors' help parents and children to understand the type of content featured within a particular game, including sex, fear, bad language, discrimination, gambling, drugs, violence, and in-game purchases. In combination, the two different ratings can provide a good level of information to help make informed decisions regarding the suitability for your child.

PEGI age ratings are broken down into five categories:

- 3**: www.pegi.info
- 7**: www.pegi.info
- 12**: www.pegi.info
- 16**: www.pegi.info
- 18**: www.pegi.info

PEGI content descriptors are broken down into eight categories:

- FEAR
- DRUGS
- IN-GAME PURCHASES
- DISCRIMINATION
- BAD LANGUAGE
- SEX
- VIOLENCE
- GAMBLING

LIMITATIONS OF PEGI RATINGS

It's possible for young people to buy games online without a required proof of age, opening them up to age-inappropriate content without your knowing. We advise that you regularly monitor your child's gaming activities and maintain a honest and healthy dialogue with them about the online world.

PARENTAL CONTROLS

It is a good idea to put in place parental controls for all online accounts which your child may use to purchase or download online games e.g. The App Store, Google Play Store, PlayStation Store and Microsoft Xbox Store etc.

Source: www.pegi.info

Source: www.bbfc.co.uk

Source: www.nationalonlinesafety.com

Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 06.02.19



Parking restrictions near schools

We have painted yellow 'zig-zags' road markings outside of school for a very good reason: the safety of our pupils; YOUR CHILDREN!

Do not park or stop even for a short moment on these markings.

Any cars stopped or parked in the restricted area can hide small children who are about to cross the road. The children may not see approaching cars, and approaching motorists may not see the children.