



Safeguarding Update

Spring 2023 - 2024



WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputies straightaway.

If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police on 999

Meet the Designated Safeguarding Team:

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

- Mrs L Bassett-Cross

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:

- Mrs K O'Brien
- Mrs R Woodruff
- Mrs L Earl-Smith
- Mrs J Ireland
- Mr M Clifton
- Miss L Parker
- Mrs R Punchard
- Mrs Fyfe

School Safeguarding Governor:

- Mrs P Alexander

You can contact the DSL team on:

dsl@woodstreet.surrey.sch.uk

dsl@worplesdon.surrey.sch.uk

The Safeguarding Team oversee and coordinate all aspects of the school's work to ensure that children are kept safe. They regularly attend training to ensure their skills and knowledge are up-to-date.

For a copy of our school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, please visit the federated website: www.wwfs.surrey.sch.uk

GET TO KNOW AGE RATINGS

Age ratings are in place to help protect your child, so here is a little reminder of how important it is to check the age ratings of what your child is accessing online. Here are the age ratings of some of the more popular apps that young people are accessing. Did you know that WhatsApp has an age rating of 16?



Whether your child is viewing films, accessing apps, playing games online, using social media or downloading other apps – check the age rating first to see if your child is old enough. In addition, the likes of PEGI include further content descriptors, which will give you an indication of the type of content that your child might view e.g. violence if accessing the app/game etc. It is important to note that whilst age ratings do allow you to see if something may be appropriate for your child, it is also important to review the content yourself. This will allow you to make an informed decision as to whether it is suitable for your child to access and if it would be beneficial to apply further parental controls. Parent Zone have published this article about why age ratings matter: <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/age-ratings>

GROWING UP

Asking for more independence is an important part of growing up - but every child is different and matures differently.

The NSPCC website have lots of advice to help you keep children safe at home.

NSPCC

- One example of advice is regarding supporting children of different ages sharing a bedroom. We know it's not always possible to have children having their own room either at home or on holiday. Follow the link for further information: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/in-the-home/sharing-a-bedroom/>
- Staying home alone – there's no legal age a child can be left home alone but there are important factors to consider. It is suggested that children under the age of 12 are NOT left home alone. For further guidance please visit: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/in-the-home/home-alone/>
- Feeling confused or anxious shouldn't stop you from having a tricky conversation with your child. For support on how to talk to children about difficult topics, please visit: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/talking-about-difficult-topics/>





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USEFUL ACRONYMS & VOCABULARY ABOUT SAFEGUARDING

DSL: Designated Safeguarding Lead

Early Help: "providing Early Help support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years".

TAC: Team Around a Child TAC (part of Early Help)

TAF: Team Around the Family (part of Early Help)

CP: Child Protection

ChiN: Child in Need

DV: Domestic Violence

PREVENT: Part of the PREVENT Governments Counter Terrorism Strategy to stop people being drawn into extremism

Channel: A programme that provides support to people identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

LADO: Local Authority LADO Designated Officer who deals with position of trust safeguarding issues

GBV: Gender based violence is directed at an individual based on his or her biological sex or gender identity

County Lines: County Lines is when illegal drugs are transported from one area to another, often across police and local authority boundaries usually by children/vulnerable people who are coerced into it by gangs.

CME: Children Missing Education

VENTM: Vulnerable Exploited Missing Trafficked. VENTM supports young people to reduce their risk in the following behaviours: Child Sexual Exploitation Child Criminal Exploitation County lines

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about FORTNITE CHAPTER 3

AGE RATING PEGI 12

First released in 2017, Fortnite has become one of the most popular games in the world. It currently has around 350 million registered players. Developed by Epic Games, it began life exclusively as a 'battle royale' contest, where up to 100 online player characters would fight – with weaponry including rifles, handguns and rocket launchers – to be the last one standing. Today, it features multiple modes which each offer something different (although some modes, such as 'Save the World', are only available on certain platforms).

IN-APP PURCHASES
Not all of Fortnite is free. Save the World mode, for example, can become quite costly. An in-game currency called V-Bucks is used to buy items such as cosmetics, which are not a necessity to play the game. It can feel like buying them is a waste of money, however – even for adult players. Making sure no payment methods are linked to the game's store is a good idea when children are playing Fortnite.

REPEAT SUBSCRIPTIONS
Fortnite now offers a monthly repeat subscription which costs £9.99 (or equivalent). This package offers different non-essential benefits every month – including fancy cosmetics, rare weapons, V-Bucks and special bonuses. Signing up, therefore, can be tempting for addictive players. However, subscriptions cannot be paid for with V-Bucks earned in the game, only with real-world money.

COMPETITIVE COMMUNITY
Fortnite isn't purely a competitive experience (some modes prioritise cooperation), but the 'Battle Pass' remains central. Battle Royale is an especially ruthless mode, where the last player or squad left standing wins. Games can become heated, and players' desire to win can often cause excessively aggressive or "toxic" behaviour towards others – via the game's audio chat, for instance.

POSSIBILITY OF SCAMS
Popular games like Fortnite are often targeted by unscrupulous individuals trying to trick or exploit genuine fans. In Fortnite, scammers have been known to offer children free V-Bucks in exchange for rare items – often asking the player to click a particular link. These scammers are seeking access to your child's account, personal information and payment details.

USER-CONTROLLED CONTENT
Some elements of online video games can't be rated for age appropriateness because the developers don't have control over them. In Fortnite, for instance, things like voice or text chat, usernames, traces and other player-generated content may not always be suitable for children; it also means that the makers aren't liable for anything a stranger might say to young Fortnite players online.

Advice for Parents & Carers

STAY AWARE OF SPENDING
Free-to-play games (that is, ones without up-front costs) can still be big financial drains. In Fortnite, for example, the Battle Pass – a set of rewards to improve players' experience in the game – can be either earned through playing or bought with real money (with additional incentives for the latter). With supervision, however, this can be a great lesson in money management for young people.

TALK ABOUT TALKING
Communication is key in the squad-based Fortnite modes, and children will quickly realise that talking with teammates helps to increase their win rate. It's a good idea, therefore, to chat with your child first about speaking to strangers online, trading scammers and other potential risks. Remind them that they can always come to you for help if they run into problems online.

ENCOURAGE BREAKS
Gaming sessions can reach marathon lengths, especially when your child is on a winning streak and doesn't want to stop. Sitting in the same position for hours isn't healthy, of course, but it's an easy habit to form. Encouraging young ones to break regularly for drinks and so on will help them stay hydrated, rest their eyes and release some of the tension from competitive gameplay.

DISCUSS OTHER APPS
Games like Fortnite can lead on to third-party apps (Discord, for example) where players can join a voice, text or – in some cases – video chat about the game. Certain add-ons also let children talk with other players from their local area, which clearly presents a potential risk. When discussing Fortnite with your child, you might also want to ask them about other apps they use while playing.

Meet Our Expert
Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2016, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 05.01.2022

Fortnite appears to remain popular and we need to remind you that it is PEGI rated 12 due to having frequent mild violence. This means it is not suitable for those under 12 years old.

It is important to note that when PEGI rating games PEGI do not take into consideration the communications facilities available. Fortnite has a chat facility which increases risks to children. There are different versions of the games including the free to play Battle Royale game (although there are in-app purchases) where up to 100 players can compete against each other. Due to the nature of the game, your child may be exposed to inappropriate language and/or chatting to strangers.

We highly recommend that you dissuade your children from using Fortnite. If this is unavoidable, Fortnite does include a number of parental controls. To help make it a safer environment you may consider disabling voice chat, filtering language and setting privacy settings. Try not to store any payment details within the game/device or make sure you have set purchase restrictions.