

Farington Moss St Paul's Primary School



Online Safety Newsletter



Edition 4 July 2

We are pleased to publish the fourth edition of our online safety newsletter. This issue has a focus on the popular online game Fortnite - Battle Royale.

Fortnite - Battle Royale

The online game Fortnite is a popular topic of conversation amongst children in school. Over recent months a rapidly increasing number of children are playing the online game 'Fortnite - Battle Royale'. The Battle Royale mode can be played free online, making it "the most played online game in the world". The game sees up to 100 players dropped on an island. Players can play against each other online until there is only one survivor. Players search around the island for hidden items such as weapons to enable them to stay in the game longer. Although the online game is free, there are a number of cosmetic items which can be purchased as well as a battle pass (for more detailed information about the game visit the websites below).

The UK Video Standards Council rate Fortnite as PEGI 12 for frequent scenes of mild violence. As with all online games there are a number of risks to consider. Here are a few examples. Firstly this game interacts with other online players. It is important to remember that the online nature of the game could expose younger players to offensive language via the voice or on-screen text chat. Secondly players need to wear headsets during the game, so this also makes it difficult to hear what other online users are saying. Since April 2018 the game has also been released on mobile phones, meaning it can be played without a games console at home. This potentially makes it harder to monitor and keep track of online conversations.

For further information and more comprehensive advice then these websites may be useful:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/fortnite-battle-royale-parents-guide/>

<https://www.besa.org.uk/news/what-schools-need-to-know-about-fortnite-battle-royale/>

<http://www.askaboutgames.com/parents-guide-to-fortnite-peg-12/>

Other Useful Websites

Supporting Young People Online: www.childnet.com/resources/supporting-young-people-online

Internet Parental Controls: www.saferinternet.org.uk/parental-controls

Safety tools on Online Networks: www.saferinternet.org.uk/safety-tools

Online Gaming: www.childnet.com/online-gaming

Pegi ratings: www.pegi.info/en/index