



Hilltop Junior School

Termly Computing Online Safety Newsletter

Online Safety Newsletter *Summer 2021*

Fortnite

Fortnite continues to be very popular with lots of young people. It is **rated PEGI 12 for frequent mild violence which means it is not suitable for persons under 12 years of age**. It is also important to bear in mind that when rating games, PEGI do not take into consideration the chat features of a game which Fortnite does include.



What is Fortnite?

There are different versions of Fortnite, including a free-to-play Battle Royale game (although money can be spent within the game) where up to 100 players compete against each other. The aim is to battle against each other to be the last player standing!

What do I need to be aware of?

Chatting to strangers and inappropriate language:

Fortnite contains voice and text chat. Due to the nature of the game, your child may be chatting to strangers and may hear inappropriate language. Ensure your child knows how to report players for any inappropriate behaviour: <https://www.epicgames.com/help/en-US/fortnite-c75/battle-royale-c93/how-do-i-report-bad-player-behavior-in-fortnite-a3276>

In game purchases:

All users can purchase V-Bucks directly through the game. This currency can be used to purchase items in the Fortnite store so make sure you don't store your payment details within the game device and restrict purchases. More information about what ingame purchases are can be found here: <https://pegi.info/page/game-purchases>

Parental Controls

Fortnite includes a number of parental controls to help you make it a safer environment for your child including disabling voice chat, filtering language and setting privacy settings. Find out more about parental controls here: <https://www.epicgames.com/fortnite/en-US/parental-controls>. Also, remember to set up age appropriate parental controls on the device your child is playing on as well.

We always recommend playing the game with your child so you can see what they are playing and monitor the sort of chat that they are listening to/contributing to. Remind your child that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if they have any concerns.

Further information

For further information about Fortnite, follow these links:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/fortnite-everything-you-need-know-about-online-game>
<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/fortnite-battle-royale/>

How to protect your child's personal Information

CEOP and Parent Zone have produced this article about personal information and how you can help your child protect their personal information and recognise the risks.

<https://parentinfo.org/article/your-childs-personal-information-and-how-to-protect-it-online-primary>

Online Challenges

In February 2021, the DfE issued guidance about tackling 'Harmful online challenges and online hoaxes'. The advice has been developed in collaboration with partners in the UK Council for Internet Safety Education subgroup and the Samaritans.

See the DfE Guidance here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/harmful-online-challenges-and-online-hoaxes/harmful-online-challenges-and-online-hoaxes>

LGfL also have a poster summarising the issues here: <https://static.lgfl.net/LgflNet/downloads/online-safety/posters/LGfL->

Supporting children and young people with SEND online

Internet Matters have produced this document which outlines some advice for parents and carers to help children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) stay safe online.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Internet-Matters-Guide-supporting-children-with-send-safer-gaming-online.pdf>

Further advice can also be found here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/inclusive-digital-safety/advice-for-parents-and-carers/supporting-children-with-send/connecting-and-sharing-online/>

Live streaming Introduction

What is live streaming?

Live streaming is when somebody broadcasts live (real time) video through an app or website. For example, users can live stream on Instagram, Twitch or Facebook. Children also post prerecorded videos and share them through apps such as YouTube or share them to friends via apps such as WhatsApp. Whilst live streaming, other users can comment, react and chat. Most of these apps are for those aged over 13+.

Risks

If your child has a public profile then potentially people they don't know will be watching their videos, commenting and chatting with them.

Whilst using these apps/sites, your child could view inappropriate content.

Your child may share personal information.

Videos can be recorded or screenshots taken so even if you subsequently delete the video then somebody may still have a copy of it to share.

Your child could be subjected to cyberbullying.

Your child may participate in online challenges which can sometimes be risky.

How can I help keep my child safe?

Use apps/websites together so you can work out how the privacy settings work and how to report or block other users when necessary. Ensure your child understands that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if they see anything upsetting online. Talk to your child about how to deal with peer pressure and how they shouldn't share or participate in anything that makes them feel uncomfortable.

Further links

The following three articles will provide you with further information and guidance on how to keep your child safe:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/parents-guide-to-livestreaming-and-vlogging/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/onlinesafety/livestreaming-online-video-apps/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/what-is-livestreaming/>

Set up appropriate privacy settings

Don't share personal info

Have regular chats with your child

Learn how to use the reporting functions