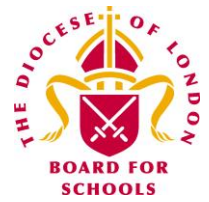




## St Mary & St Pancras C. E. Primary School

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Headteacher **Jules Belton**, Deputy Headteacher: **Lucy Heard**  
Assistant Headteacher: **Lesley Carneiro**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Dangers of Online Gaming

As you will be aware, many of your children enjoy playing a range of games online. Whilst this is a common form of entertainment for children, it is vitally important that you are aware of the following:

- Age ratings
- Messaging facilities e.g. group chat
- Content
- How to protect your child by checking account settings and reporting any inappropriate behaviour.

We have been made aware of children using some of these games to insult each other. Children do not understand that what they say online has implications and quite often behave differently to how they would face to face. These online altercations can leave children (and parents) feeling anxious and subsequently problems follow into school. In addition to the emotional impact this has on children, it also detracts from teaching and learning time. Please note, it is the responsibility of parents to safeguard their child whilst using online gaming platforms, including monitoring the age limit of games being accessed.

Fortnite is a very popular game but unfortunately, like with all other online games, it comes with potential risks that need to be controlled and monitored. It is also unsuitable for primary aged children. ~~Fortnite has a PEGI rating of 12~~, PEGI have said this is due to the 'frequent scenes of mild violence. It is not suitable for persons under 12 years of age'.

Cont'd.



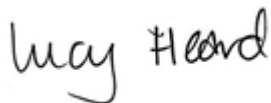
This PEGI rating only takes into account the content in the game and not the contact element, where players may be exposed to swearing and offensive language from strangers in voice or on-screen text chat.

Further information can be found at

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/parents-guide-fortnite-battle-royale>

Should you need further advice on other games, parent guides can be found on particular gaming sites, or on websites such as Webwise, Safer Internet and Childnet.

Yours sincerely,



Lucy Heard

Deputy Headteacher