



COMPUTER GAMING – Essential E-Safety Information

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Lots of pupils enjoy playing on their games console, however there are some games that pupils are playing that are not appropriate for their age.

The games that pupils and parents most frequently mention are **Grand Theft Auto 5** and **Call of Duty**. All games are given PEGI ratings and both of these games are given a rating of 18.

What is a PEGI rating ?

Age ratings are systems used to ensure that entertainment content, such as films, videos, DVDs, and computer games, are clearly labelled by age according to the content they contain. Age ratings provide guidance to consumers (particularly parents) to help them decide whether or not to buy a particular product.

Why are games given age ratings of  ?

The ratings are accompanied by a description of why the game has been rated.

A game rated as 18 is suitable for persons aged 18 years and over only. This is because it contains: **Extreme Violence; Multiple, Motiveless Killing; Violence Towards Defenceless People; Strong Language**. Some games allow players to interact with other players ONLINE through their games console.

The graphics in these games are extremely realistic. They are very much like watching a movie. The content of such games typically include:

- **Continuous swearing;**
- **Extreme violence being depicted against defenceless people including prostitutes – e.g. someone's head being stamped on; people being stabbed;**
- **Sexualised content and demeaning images of women– people having sex; picking up prostitutes; assaulting lap dancers etc;**
- **Drug taking.**

E-Safety is an important part of keeping children safe at John Chilton School.

The school's message is very clear: These games are NOT appropriate for any child. Young children are very impressionable. They do not have the maturity or experience of life with which to interpret such degrading content. Their values are being influenced for the worse by these games and there is an added danger of them being groomed by online contacts pretending to be other children.

Whilst the school tries to offer helpful advice to parents, we cannot prescribe what parents allow their children to do at home. However, children tend to imitate what they see and hear. Pupils coming into school and swearing, using degrading language or acting out offensive things they have seen on these games, will find themselves in trouble.

We talk a lot to the pupils in school, and we know that some are currently allowed to play these games. We also know that the majority of parents do not let their children play such games. It has always been the case that children use "pester power" to say that *ALL MY FRIENDS ARE ALLOWED TO ...* [stay up late; wear certain types of clothes etc.] ... *IT'S SO UNFAIR*. Sensible parenting is about making the right choices even when children don't agree.

We wouldn't let our children go to a friend's house if we didn't trust that they would look after them. Have a chat with other parents, they will probably share your opinion. Just as importantly, have a chat with your child; explain why you don't let them play these games at home and why you do not want them to go behind your back. In this day of 'internet everywhere', educating your child is one of the best ways of helping to safeguard them.

For signposting to further information and advice, please go to the section on our school website:

<http://www.john-chilton.ealing.sch.uk/E> -

