



E-Safety Newsletter Issue 5

We would like to bring to your attention a game called Fortnite that the children are particularly attracted to but that is raising concerns with professionals and parents because of the exposure to prolonged violent scenes and, the online chat and communication with other players. Children are becoming highly addicted to the game.

FORTNITE

Fortnite is a popular strategy survival game available on a variety of devices - PlayStation 4, Xbox One, and Windows. It combines Minecraft resource collecting and building with team based survival shooting games.



Fortnite is PEGI rated 12 with frequent scenes of mild violence. **This rating means that it is not considered suitable for persons less than 12 years of age.**

Not covered by ratings are the interactions with other players online. Its online nature could expose players to offensive language from random strangers via the voice or on-screen text chat. It's also a game where the sound is crucial (hearing footsteps of other players in particular). This means that players will wear headphones and parents can't always hear what is being said by strangers.

The game does push players to make additional in-game purchases as well, although they're not required to play the game. These mainly focus on new clothes and equipment in the online game. These are elements that don't improve a player's performance but just make them look better. We have provided a link to Childnet's briefing guide on the game at <https://www.childnet.com/blog/a-parents-guide-to-fortnite-battle-royale>

ROBLOX



We have raised our apprehensions about this game with parents previously and it is still causing a lot of concern. Roblox is a gaming platform where multiple players interact and play together online. Roblox is currently available on PC, phone, tablet and Xbox One. **Whilst the game is aimed at 8-18 year olds, and it has a PEGI rating of 8 meaning it is not suitable for children under that age, there are no other age restrictions.** This means both adults and young people can play and

communicate with each other on the platform. All games are multiplayer and include a written chat feature, which is visible to players within each individual game. Users can also make and receive friend requests during gameplay and this means that they can chat to each other outside of the game.

Parents have reported inappropriate game scenes including some of a sexual nature. The "Two Johns" from E-Safety Training have also advised us of some unsuitable content that children can come across as they move through the game. We would direct parents to the following link with more information about the game <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/roblox-guide-parents>

Reminder - It is important to have a conversation with your child about the sites they use and carry on having open discussions. This will encourage them to come to you with any concerns they may have. Involve your child in discussions and decisions about online safety and their internet usage. This will help them understand the importance of staying safe whilst having a great time online. It will also help to educate them about how they can keep themselves safe online and know what to do if something goes wrong.