



Bishop Aldhelm's C.E. Primary School

Loved by God; United in Learning

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*Love, Unity,
Courage
and Inspiration*

Wednesday 11th July 2018

Dear Parents & Carers,

Advice and information regarding 'Fortnite: Battle Royale'

At Bishop Aldhelm's we are committed to promoting the safe and responsible use of the internet and as such we feel it is our responsibility to raise this particular issue as a growing concern, due to an increase in behaviour from children who are playing and then recreating the online game 'Fortnite: Battle Royale'. The following advice has been taken from the UK Safer Internet Centre and the NSPCC.

What is Fortnite? An online game where players battle against others from around the world to kill each other's characters until one player is left. Users play against people of different ages from across the world, and can talk and interact with each other as they play through the in-game chat feature.

What age rating is Fortnite? 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'. However, 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, either through audio or on-screen text chat.

What do parents need to know? Other players can talk to your child through the voice chat options unless you turn it off in the settings. Anyone from around the world can still text chat with your child and currently there is no way to turn this text chat off.

In order to play Fortnite you have to create an account, using an email address, display/user name and the account will be linked to a bank account. You can make in game purchases. Although Battle Royale is free to play, other aspects of the game are not. There are various packs which give you different access to the full game and extensions, bonuses and weapons with prices ranging from less than £10, all the way up to and over £100.

Our advice:

- Talk to your child regularly about what they are doing online and how to stay safe. Let them know they can come to you or another trusted adult if they're feeling worried or upset by anything they have seen. Explore your child's online activities together. Agree your own rules as a family when using sites, apps and games. Manage your technology and use the privacy and parental control settings available to keep your child safe.
- Make sure that your child is aware that the game is not real life and so should not be recreated when at school.
- It is advisable for parents to turn off the voice chat system in the game settings to ensure children avoided inappropriate contact from strangers. But the NSPCC has warned parents that the text messaging system in the game could not be disabled.
- It has also advised parents to closely monitor the amount of money their children were spending through the game's online store, which lets keen players buy skins and other items to personalise their in-game avatar.
- Know how to make a report. On Fortnite you can block and report players who are behaving inappropriately by using the in-game feedback tool located in the game Main Menu, you can also make a report by emailing the creators of Fortnite.

Bishop Aldhelm's C.E. Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our children.
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