



Monday 18th December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re. Fortnite Online Gaming Concerns

I am writing to you with concerns about the online game Fortnite.

We have been made aware that some children are spending excessive amounts of time playing Fortnite. Unfortunately, this is affecting relationships in school which is impacting on the children's emotions and learning.

The age rating for Fortnite is 12 due to the frequent scenes of violence so none of our children should be playing it. If they are, it is important that you know what the game is about and what the potential dangers are to your children.

Fortnite is an online survival game in which players work together to engage in combat with an army of zombie-like creatures that are trying to kill them. It is designed as a shooter-survival game, one version of which may involve up to 100 players fighting to be the last person standing.

Within the game, the children are able to speak to each other. This is becoming a problem and a distraction from learning whilst in school. Children are not being kind to each other and showing respect as we know they are able to whilst playing the game and are then bringing these issues into the school. We have spoken with the children a lot about using 'banter' with each other and that 'banter' usually leads to offence and upset.

Please take the time to talk to the children about Fortnite if they are playing it. Share concerns about how children are interacting with each other and encourage them to show their gaming to you and give them the confidence to come to you if there are any worries. Ask your child who they talk to in the game - we have had some reports of children speaking to strangers. Please come and see us if you have concerns around this.

Although children will want to use headphones whilst playing Fortnite, you should consider setting the sound so that it comes through the TV which means you can hear what is being said whilst they are playing the game. Encourage your children to take regular breaks to rest from the tension of competitive gameplay. Please do not allow your children to play this game before they come to school - this will not help them to learn.

On Fortnite you can report players who are behaving inappropriately. Encourage your children to report poor behaviour using the in-game feedback tool located in the main menu.

I have attached further information and advice about the game Fortnite from National Online Safety. Please do take the time to read it and let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Best wishes,

Claire Trehella

Deputy Headteacher