



St Peter`s C of E (Aided) Primary School

Potters Green, Station Road, Cowfold, Nr Horsham, West Sussex RH13 8QZ

Tel No: 01403 864365

E-mail: office@stpeterscowfold.uk

Headteacher: Mr. G. Kolter BSc (Hons) PGCE NPQH

**west
sussex
county
council**

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Computer Games & Online Safety

Dear Parents & Carers,

It is National Internet Safety Day on Tuesday 10th February. To mark this important event, and to respond to a concern for some families, I am writing to give parents some information about the safety of some online games. I hope you find the following information helpful.

In the UK, major online games follow the [PEGI \(Pan-European Game Information\)](#) system, with advisory age ratings of 3, 7, 12, 16, or 18. While PEGI 12, 16, and 18 are legally enforceable for *purchasing* physical games, online, these are primarily advisory, with many platforms also enforcing a minimum age of 13 for accounts.

Key Age Guidelines for Popular Games:

- **3 & 7:** Suitable for all ages (e.g., *Minecraft*, *Mario Kart*).
- **12:** Fantasy or non-realistic violence (e.g., *Fortnite*, *Roblox*, *Valorant*).
- **16:** Realistic-looking violence (e.g., *Call of Duty* titles, *Grand Theft Auto* often 18).
- **18:** Intense, adult violence and content.

Key Considerations for Parents & Carers:

- **Online Safety:** PEGI ratings focus on content rather than the risks of chatting with strangers, which is crucial for games like *Roblox* or *Fortnite*.
- **Platforms:** Use console-specific parental controls to restrict access based on these age ratings and to manage in-game purchases.
- **Data Protection:** Many services, such as *Fortnite*, have special protections for users under 13 (e.g., "Cabined Accounts") requiring parental consent.



Does your child play on ROBLOX?

If your child plays on Roblox, are you aware that it is an open forum where any type of game can be uploaded for anyone to play? Without the proper parental controls and management, children could be exposed to unsuitable content. There are also open online 'chats' through Roblox that any adult could pose a threat through.

Fortnite is another game that is unsuitable for primary school children to play. We find some pupils have an interest in guns, which may stem from playing games like this. Whenever staff, at St Peter's, hear children discussing guns (or playing shooting games on the playground) we challenge the children and try to educate them on the realities of knife or gun crime (at an age appropriate level).

Please find below some useful reading that we have found online. If you feel that you would like to become more aware about how *ROBLOX* works and how to set parental controls please see the relevant links below. There is also some further advice around this issue from the NSPCC.

Thank you for giving this matter your attention.

Best wishes,

Giles Kolter Giles Kolter (Headteacher)

Useful Links

[PEGI Ratings | Games Rating Authority](#)

[What is Roblox? Safety guide for parents | Internet Matters](#)

[Is Roblox safe for my child? | NSPCC](#)

[How to Ensure Your Children Stay Safe While Playing Online Games | NSPCC](#)