

## Information for parents/ carers re: gaming

At St James, we are continually looking to keep parents and carers up to date with the latest online safety information. Please find information to follow related to gaming which you may find useful.

PEGI (Pan European Game Information) is the system used across Europe in gaming. While most games are suitable for players of all ages, others are only suitable for teenagers or adults as they may **contain undesirable language, horror or references to sex and drugs/alcohol**. Essentially the PEGI rating on a game confirms that it **contains content only suitable for a certain age group and above**.

### What do the ratings mean?



[www.pegi.info](http://www.pegi.info)

The content of games with a PEGI 3 rating is considered suitable for all age groups. The game should not contain any sounds or pictures that are likely to frighten young children. A very mild form of violence (in a comical context or a childlike setting) is acceptable. No bad language should be heard.



[www.pegi.info](http://www.pegi.info)

Game content with scenes or sounds that can possibly be frightening to younger children should fall in this category. Very mild forms of violence (implied, non-detailed, or non-realistic violence) are acceptable for a game with this rating.



[www.pegi.info](http://www.pegi.info)

Video games that show violence of a slightly more graphic nature towards fantasy characters or non-realistic violence towards human-like characters would fall in this age category. Sexual innuendo or sexual posturing can be present, while any bad language in this category must be mild. Gambling as it is normally carried out in real life in casinos or gambling halls can also be present.



[www.pegi.info](http://www.pegi.info)

This rating is applied once the depiction of violence (or sexual activity) reaches a stage that looks the same as would be expected in real life. The use of bad language in games can be more extreme, while games of chance and the use of tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs can also be present.



[www.pegi.info](http://www.pegi.info)

The adult classification is applied when the level of violence reaches a stage where it becomes a depiction of gross violence, apparently motiveless killing, or violence towards defenceless characters. The glamorisation of the use of illegal drugs and explicit sexual activity should also fall into this age category.

Games will also feature these **content descriptors**:

	Depictions of ethnic, religious, nationalistic or other stereotypes that could encourage hatred
	Contains offensive language
	May be frightening to younger children
	May encourage gambling
	Can be played online
	Contains depiction of nudity or sexual behaviour
	Contains depictions of violence.
	The use or glamorisation of alcohol or drugs

### What can I do to keep my child safe when gaming online?

You can set parental controls via the following link for **any** device including, but not limited to, a smartphone, playstation, iPad or Xbox.

<https://pegi.info/parental-controls>

#### **From here you can:**

- select which games children are allowed to play
- control and monitor the use of digital purchases
- limit access to internet browsing by applying a filter
- control the amount of time that children can spend playing games
- control the level of online interaction (chat) and exchange of data

#### **Did you know.....**

- **In the UK, PEGI 12, 16 and 18 ratings are legally enforceable.**
- Fortnite has a PEGI rating of 12 due to frequent incidences of violence
- Roblox has a PEGI rating of 7 only with parental consent. The online element to the game (that you can chat to others) is an additional risk factor. It is worth noting that a significant number of children, parents and industry experts believe this rating is too low.
- Askaboutgames.com provide a weekly chart of top/new games sorted by PEGI rating:  
<http://www.askaboutgames.com/category/pegi-charts/>
- O2 have worked in conjunction with the NSPCC to review popular games and provide a parental guide to each:  
<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/?order=title>

Please be aware that we will be reinforcing our online safety message to children in the coming weeks, with an emphasis on gaming.

Please contact Miss Frost (Nightingales) via the office if you should have any further queries.