



Willerby Carr Lane Primary School

Newsletter - eSafety edition

**essential
e-safety**

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Dear Parents, Carers, Governors and Staff



COMPUTER GAMING – essential eSafety information



This **special edition** of our newsletter is dedicated to the issue of eSafety and Computer Gaming. On Wednesday of this week, we invited eSafety expert, Andy Nunn, to talk to parents in the hall about the issues of helping to keep children safe from harm on the internet. One of the key areas of concern raised by parents was their children playing inappropriate computer games. To those of us from the generation of Space Invaders, the idea that a computer game can be harmful and inappropriate might be surprising. So, what is all the fuss about...?

What Computer Games are considered harmful and inappropriate ?

The games that children and parents most frequently mention are Grand Theft Auto 5 and Call of Duty. Both of these games are given a PEGI rating of 18. All games are given PEGI ratings.

What is a PEGI rating ?

Age ratings are systems used to ensure that entertainment content, such as films, videos, DVDs, and computer games, are clearly labelled by age according to the content they contain. Age ratings provide guidance to consumers (particularly parents) to help them decide whether or not to buy a particular product

Why are games given age ratings of ?

The rating will be accompanied by a description of why the game has been rated. For example, Grand Theft Auto V has the accompanying advisory:



The content of this game is suitable for persons aged 18 years and over only.

It contains: Extreme violence - Multiple, motiveless killing - Violence towards defenceless people - Strong language

This game allows the player to interact with other players ONLINE

But it's just a 'Shoot 'em Up' Car Chasing game; that can't be so bad, can it?

The graphics in these games are extremely realistic. They are very much like watching a movie. The content of such games typically includes:

- Continuous swearing
- Extreme violence being depicted against defenceless people including prostitutes – e.g. someone's head being stamped on; people being stabbed
- Sexualised content and demeaning images of women– people having sex; picking up prostitutes; assaulting lap dancers etc
- Drug taking

