



Headteacher: Paula Whysall  
Chair of Governors: Ashley Tabony

Cokayne Avenue  
Ashbourne  
Derbyshire  
DE6 1EJ  
Tel: 01335 342891  
Email: [info@parkside-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@parkside-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk)  
Web: [www.parksidejunior.co.uk](http://www.parksidejunior.co.uk)

To the parents of year 4,

### **Video Games, films and apps - keeping your child safe: E-safety - key information for parents/carers**

Parkside Junior School is committed to keeping our children safe and to promoting the safe, responsible use of the technologies available.

It has been brought to our attention that some children in our school are playing age inappropriate video games, watching films and using apps. The age rating is a clear indication of the suitability of content and we suggest that you monitor content which is appropriate for their age.

We have had a number of upset children in school recently describing, re-enacting or repeating to others inappropriate content from games, films and apps. Sometimes they have been exposed to this due to older siblings. We ask parents to be vigilant.

#### **1) Ratings denote the content and appropriateness of games**

Since 2003 games have been age rated under the Pan-European Game Information (PEGI) system which operates in the UK and over 30 other countries of Europe, in addition, where a game showed realistic scenes of gross violence or sexual activity the game had to be legally classified and received one or other of the BBFC classification certificates given for videos/DVDs



The PEGI system has been effectively incorporated into UK law and video games will be age rated at one or other of the following age levels; which you will find on video game sleeves. Ratings do not denote the difficulty or the enjoyment level of a game, but that that it contains content suitable for a certain age group and above

The PEGI age ratings will enable parents and carers to make an informed choice when buying a game for their children.

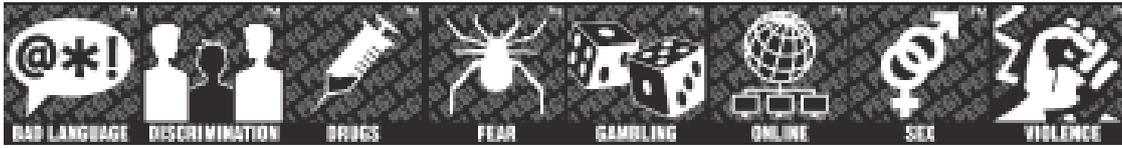
It is important to note that the age ratings 12, 16 and 18 age ratings are mandatory and that it is **illegal** for a retailer to supply any game with any of these ratings to anyone below the specified age. The age ratings 3 and 7 are advisory only.



**An 18 Rated game** is applied when the level of violence reaches a stage where it becomes gross violence and/or includes elements of specific types of violence.  
**In general terms it is where the level of violence is so visually strong that it would make the reasonable viewer react with a sense of revulsion.**

**This rating is also applied where the level of sexual activity is explicit which may mean that genitals are visible. Any game that glamorises the use of real life drugs will also probably fall into this category.**

## 2) Content Indicators



In addition to age ratings, video games will include indicators of the type of content and activities that the game includes in it.

The descriptors are fairly self-explanatory but should be read in conjunction with the age rating given for a video game.

A violence descriptor with an 18 rated game will indicate a more extreme level of violence than a violence descriptor with a 12 rated game. Similarly a sex/nudity descriptor with a 12 rated game will probably indicate sexual innuendo but a sex/nudity descriptor with an 18 rated game will indicate sexual content of a more explicit nature.

Thank you for your support

Paula Whysall  
Headteacher