



# St Teresa's Catholic Primary School

*"With Jesus we Live, Love and Learn."*

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Headteacher: Mr Jacques F Bottjer (B.Ed)

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have recently been dealing with a number of safeguarding concerns related to students playing video games that are not appropriate for their age, as well as playing online games without proper supervision and safeguards in place. This is a significant concern, as exposing children to inappropriate content can have a detrimental impact on their development and well-being.

Just as we would not take a child to see a movie rated 18 at the cinema, we must be equally vigilant when it comes to the video games our children are playing. Each game carries a PEGI (Pan European Game Information) rating, which is similar to the movie rating system.

Examples of games our students have spoken to us about playing:

Fortnite: PEGI **12**

PUBG: PEGI **16**

Grand Theft Auto (GTA): PEGI **18**

Call of Duty: PEGI **16-18**

**Allowing children to play games with high ratings is the same as taking them to see an adult-oriented, violent or graphic movie.** At their young age, they simply do not have the maturity to handle the themes and content of these games.

On the other hand, there are some games that are, on the surface, more age-appropriate, such as Minecraft (PEGI 7), Among Us (PEGI 7) and Roblox (PEGI 7).

However, even these games can pose risks if played online, as children may be communicating with strangers. Many of these games have parental controls and settings that can help mitigate these risks, but it is crucial that parents and carers are aware of them and actively monitor their child's online activity.

Children grow up so quickly, and it is our responsibility as a school and parents to ensure that their childhood remains as innocent and protected as possible. We must express a level of control and ensure that the media and content our children are exposed to is age-appropriate and does not have a negative impact on their development.

I encourage you to review the PEGI ratings of any video games your child is playing, or that you are considering giving them for Christmas. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

Sincerely, Mr Bottjer (Headteacher)