



Monday 12th March 2018

Dear Parents / Carers,

We are having more reported incidents of children playing age-restricted video games designed for adults.

Social media and games provide excellent opportunities for children to play and learn while engaging with their family and friends. While many video games are entirely appropriate for children, some are now with children replicating the language and behaviour learnt from age-restricted video games in their play and interactions with other children.

Some parents and carers might not be aware that video games are age-rated under the Pan-European Game Information (PEGI) system which rates games at one or other of the following age levels:



More information about age ratings can be found on the PEGI website (www.pegi.info)

It is illegal for a retailer to supply any game rated 12, 16 or 18 to anyone below the specified age. The PEGI age ratings enable parents and carers to make an informed choice when buying a game for their child. As an additional aid to parents and carers video games rated under the PEGI system will usually display information to explain why a game has been rated at an age level.

It is not appropriate for children to play, or to watch others playing, games rated 18 and therefore suitable only for adults aged eighteen or over as they contain content that is unsuitable for children, including blood and gore, extreme and intense violence, mature humour, nudity, strong sexual content, strong language and use of drugs and alcohol.

Parents and carers might like to consider using free online resources to help decide whether a video game is suitable for their child. For example, Common Sense Media provides Kids Media App, available for Android, iPhone, and iPad. Kids Media App, helps parents and carers decide what to let their children play, watch and download. The App can be downloaded free from <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/mobile>

If you have concerns about your child's access to age-restricted video games, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr K Stephens
Computing and Online Safety Lead



Microsoft School