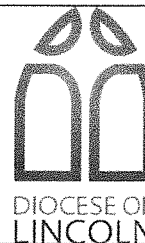


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FORTNITE: Online safety

Dear Parents

We are still experiencing issues in school related to online gaming at home, mainly centered around the game 'Fortnite' and networked play.

As with all online gaming, there are a number of risks that need to be considered in order to ensure children and young people are effectively protected. At Dunholme St.Chad's, we promote positive online safety and ensure that young children in our care are well informed to make the right decisions when working with IT, the Internet and or any other web-enabled device. We also aim to ensure that parents are well informed of what they can do to ensure that their children are being safe at home on the web.

As with other online games, Fortnite allows players to interact in online chat with friends and also any stranger playing at the time. It also allows players to set up games and choose who they invite or leave out. This is where we find most issues arise. Likewise, we also have to deal with many issues when children 'gang' up in gameplay and single out children, ruining their gaming experience.

On our school website you can find a leaflet for all parents that will give more guidance on Fortnite and how to keep children safe as well as links to two websites which help support schools in keeping children safe whilst playing the game. Both of these offer invaluable advice to help safeguard your child at home. This information is located under that 'Key Information' tab under safeguarding.

Whilst we want all of our children to have fun and explore technology and the Internet, we have to ensure that children's safety is our main priority. However, currently we are spending a disproportionate amount of time sorting out issues that come into school as a result of online gaming at home.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Carl Parkin
Computing and E-Safety lead

For further information visit: <https://www.besa.org.uk/news/what-schools-need-to-know-about-fortnite-battle-royale/>
<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/fortnite-battle-royale-parents-guide/>