

January 2019

What parents need to know about...



Grand Theft Auto (GTA)



We have heard children at our school discussing the game Grand Theft Auto (GTA) and feel we need to share more information with parents about its content and the dangers of it.

What is it?

Grand Theft Auto is video game series where players control criminals and cause trouble in order to complete missions and progress through the game. You can play it on a number of devices including: PlayStation and Xbox, desktop computers, PSP, Nintendo DS, and Mobile.



WARNING!

- The game has an age restriction of 18;
- This means that it is inappropriate for anyone under the age of 18 should not be playing it;
- It includes content such as nudity, violence and swearing language and drugs;
- Playing games such as these can desensitise children and they may end up copying things they have seen which are wrong.

Risk: Playing with strangers online.

- When playing GTA you have the option of playing against others online.
- The 'social club' is GTA's very own social platform where users can bet money, share in-game photographs (which users can like and comment on), and even message other users directly.

It is dangerous to talk to strangers online and share information with them.

Risk: ONLINE HACKERS

- Hackers can make money by helping users cheat in the game.

Actively monitor your child's online activity and don't let them play in a room on their own. These websites are very easy to find, meaning children and young people can easily get on them.

Risk: ADDICTION

Addiction is a risk with any game.

Gaming addiction is now a recognised health condition and the side effects are concerning, including sleep deprivation, decreased attention span and erratic emotional behaviour.

Limit the time your child spends on any game.

No longer than 1 hour per day.

Risk: LIVE CHAT

When playing GTA online, players have the option to use a microphone to broadcast their voice live to other players involved in the 'session'. Anything could be said, including inappropriate language, as well as online bullying.

Talk to your children about this – voices can be recorded.

Mute the microphone to prevent this.

Come and talk to any of us if you are worried or make an appointment with Mrs Evans.