ALEXANDER HOSEA PRIMARY SCHOOL
'Roots to Grow – Wings to Fly'

ONLINE SAFETY

Vodaphone produce some useful checklists for parents of different aged children to support them with addressing online safety issues.

UNDER 5 CHECKLIST

- START setting some boundaries now – it's never too early to do things like set limits for the amount of time they can spend on the computer.

- KEEP devices like your mobile out of reach and make sure you have passwords/PINs set up on them for the times you might lend them to your child... or for when they simply get hold of them themselves!

- CHECK the age ratings and descriptions on apps, games, online TV and films before downloading them and allowing your child to play with or watch them.

- EXPLAIN your technology rules to grandparents, babysitters and parents of your child's friends so that they stick to them when they're looking after your child.

- REMEMBER that public Wi-Fi (e.g. in cafes) might not have Parental Controls on it – so, if you hand over your iPad to your child while you're having a coffee, they might be able to access more than you bargained for.

- SET the homepage on your family computer or tablet to an appropriate website like Cbeebies.

AGE 6-9 CHECKLIST

- CREATE a user account for your child on the family computer with appropriate settings and make the most of Parental Controls and tools like Google Safe Search.

- AGREE a list of websites they're allowed to visit and the kind of personal information they shouldn't reveal about themselves online (like the name of their school or their home address).

- DECIDE time limits for things like using the internet and playing on games consoles.

- BEAR in mind what older siblings might be showing them on the internet, mobiles, games consoles and other family devices and agree some rules as a whole family.

- TALK to other parents about their views on things like what age to buy kids a mobile and don't be pressured by your child into letting them use certain technologies if you don't think they're old enough or mature enough... no matter how much they pester you.

- FAMILIARISE yourself with age ratings and descriptions on games, and apps etc., so that you can be sure your child is only accessing age-appropriate content.

AGE 10-12 CHECKLIST

- MAKE sure you've set some tech boundaries before they get their first mobile or games console – once they have it in their hands, it can be more difficult to change the way they use it.

- REMIND your child to keep phones and other devices well hidden when they're out and about to minimise the risk of theft.

- TALK to them about what they post and share online – written comments, photos and videos all form part of their 'digital footprint' and could be seen by anyone and available on the Web forever.

- DISCUSS the kind of things they see online – this is the age when they might be looking for information about their changing bodies and exploring relationships, for example.

- HOLD the line on letting your son or daughter sign up for services like Facebook and YouTube that have a minimum age limit of 13 – talk to other parents and their school to make sure everyone is on the same page.

- REMIND them that they shouldn't do anything online that they wouldn't do face-to-face.

CHILDNET TIPS ON ONLINE GAMING

Childnet have some top tips for online gaming. This is helpful guidance for parents who may have purchased online games for young people. The tips are listed below.

1. It may seem daunting, but one of the best things parents and carers can do is to engage with the gaming environment and begin to understand what makes it so attractive to young people as well as the types of activities that they enjoy!

2. Talk with your children about the types of game(s) they are playing. Are they role-playing games, sports games, strategy games or first person shooters? If you're not sure what they are, ask them to show you how they play and have a go yourself.

3. Some games may offer children the chance to chat with other players by voice and text. Ask them who they are playing with and find out if they are talking to other players. If chat is available, look at the type of language that is used by other players.

4. Look out for age ratings and familiarise yourself with the PEGI icons on games. The PEGI classification gives you a clear indication whether a game is suitable for your child.

The Childnet parent site includes a section on hot topics and information on parental controls and gaming. The hot topics section covers the issues that parents may be concerned about.
http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers

Childnet also have a skills school with online videos talking through the safety features of sites which parents can work through with their child. There is one for Club Penguin.
http://www.childnet.com/young-people/skills-school. Even if children do not use the game it talks through tips that younger children may need to consider in playing other games. This will help to raise awareness of the types of issues and advice parents should be discussing with their child.

The Childnet International – Know IT All for Parents site includes video guides for parents in a number of languages. http://www.childnet-int.org/kia/parents
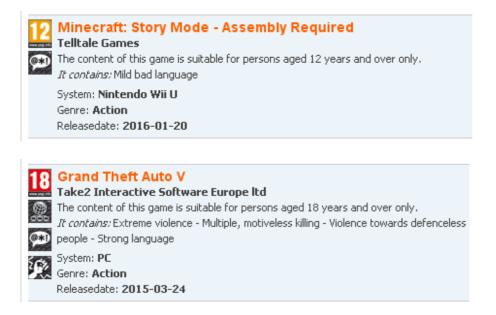
PEGI (Pan European Game Information) Web Site

The PEGI website contains information about games ratings and can be found at the following link.
http://www.pegi.info/en/index

Parents can search for a game to find out about online associated online safety issues as well as the age rating for the game.
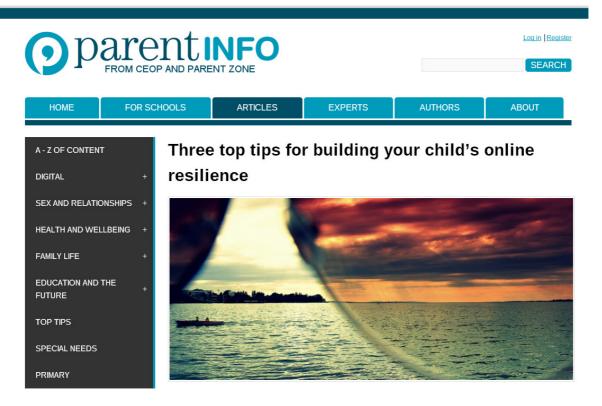

Two examples of the information the site provides about games are shown below.

Minecraft: Story Mode - Assembly Required
Telltale Games
The content of this game is suitable for persons aged 12 years and over only.
It contains: Mild bad language

System: **Nintendo Wii U**
Genre: **Action**
Releasedate: **2016-01-20**

Grand Theft Auto V
Take2 Interactive Software Europe ltd
The content of this game is suitable for persons aged 18 years and over only.
It contains: Extreme violence - Multiple, motiveless killing - Violence towards defenceless people - Strong language

System: **PC**
Genre: **Action**
Releasedate: **2015-03-24**

PARENT INFO SITE

The government has launched a new online tool for schools across the country to give parents the best possible advice and tips on preparing their children for adult life. The site has been created by CEOP and parent zone and can be found at the following link. http://parentinfo.org/article/three-top-tips-for-building-your-child-s-online-resilience

parent INFO
FROM CEOP AND PARENT ZONE

SEARCH

| HOME | FOR SCHOOLS | ARTICLES | EXPERTS | AUTHORS | ABOUT |

A - Z OF CONTENT

DIGITAL +

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS +

HEALTH AND WELLBEING +

FAMILY LIFE +

EDUCATION AND THE FUTURE +

TOP TIPS

SPECIAL NEEDS

PRIMARY

Three top tips for building your child's online resilience

The Parent Info site will give parents the information they need to help them navigate the issues children can now face. These range from spotting the warning signs of self-harm, to having a healthy body image and managing money in a digital world. The site aims to give parents the confidence and support to speak to their children on these sensitive issues. It also signposts sources of support on specific issues.

The site was tested by 100 schools who praised the Parent Info toolkit in an extended pilot that launched in January 2015. In the first few weeks alone, the site had more than 30,000 views, with overwhelmingly positive feedback.