



Carclaze Community Primary School
Online Safety Advice
February 2019

It has been brought to our attention that many of our children are accessing a range of games and apps and watching films that are not age appropriate. Children have discussed the fact that they play these games, such as Fortnite, Need for Speed, Grand Theft Auto etc, even though the certification for these games are for older children (some are categorised as 18+) based on International PEGI, App and Film Classification ratings.

Carclaze School is committed to keeping our children safe and to promoting the safe, responsible use of such technologies. As such, we feel it is our responsibility to raise this particular issue as a concern.

Ratings denote the content and appropriateness of games

Since 2003 games have been age rated under the Pan-European Game Information (PEGI) system which operates in the UK and over 30 other countries of Europe, in addition, where a game showed realistic scenes of gross violence or sexual activity the game had to be legally classified and received one or other of the BBFC classification certificates given for videos/DVDs

The PEGI system has been effectively incorporated into UK law and video games will be age rated at one or other of the following age levels; which you will find on video game sleeves. Ratings do not denote the difficulty or the enjoyment level of a game, but that that it contains content suitable for a certain age group and above

The PEGI age ratings will enable parents and carers to make an informed choice when buying a game for their children.



It is important to note that the **12, 16 and 18 age ratings are mandatory** and that it is illegal for a retailer to supply any game with any of these ratings to anyone below the specified age. The age

ratings 3 and 7 are advisory only.



An 18 Rated game is applied when the level of violence reaches a stage where it becomes gross violence and/or includes elements of specific types of violence. In general terms it is where the level of violence is so visually strong that it would make the reasonable viewer react with a sense of revulsion. This rating is also applied where the level of sexual activity is explicit which may mean that genitals are visible. Any game that glamorises the use of real life drugs will also probably fall into this category.

Content Indicators



In addition to age ratings, video games will include indicators of the type of

content and activities that the game includes in it. The descriptors are fairly self-explanatory but should be read in conjunction with the age rating given for a video game. A violence descriptor with an 18 rated game will indicate a more extreme level of violence than a violence descriptor with a 12 rated game. Similarly a sex/nudity descriptor with a 12 rated game will probably indicate sexual innuendo but a sex/nudity descriptor with an 18 rated game will indicate sexual content of a more explicit nature.

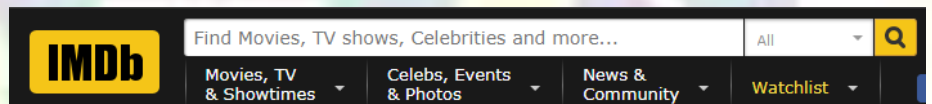
Films



All films are subject to a classification. These are put in place to ensure the content (including language, level of violence, humour etc) are all age appropriate.

If you are unsure whether a film is suitable for your child (e.g. it a PG but you are worried about an aspect of the film), the IMDb website allows you to search for films by name and then provides a parental guidance section for every film giving precise details about the content

e.g. if mild language is included it will tell you the exact words said and when.



Apps and Social Media

There are also age restrictions in place on all apps and social media sites. These are there to protect your children from being exposed to an online world that is inappropriate for their age. Every app has an age plus rating to allow parents to restrict their child's access to inappropriate content.



Roblox for example (which we know is a game played by many children at Carclaze) has a 12+ rating, meaning it should only be played by children 12 years and older.

Facebook, Instagram and other social media sites have a rating of 13years+. Many social media sites target their advertising to the age of the registered user - therefore, if you register your child using a false date of birth in order to allow them to access the site, then all advertising content will be tailored to their age. This means that if you register your 10-year-old child as a 13-year-old, when they are 12 years old they will be receiving advertising targeted at a 15 year old.





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We strongly recommend that you set the age restrictions on your child's device and install an app to your device that allows you to monitor their app purchases (e.g. family share).

Parental Responsibility


We want to work together with parents, to support them in keeping their children safe online and hope that you have found the information on this leaflet helpful. Please remember:

- * The PEGI/Film/App ratings systems helps you make informed decisions about which entertainment to choose for your family
- * A PEGI/Film/App rating gives the suggested minimum age that you must be to play a game/watch a film due to the suitability of the content
- * As parents you can take direct control of what games your children play at home, how they play them and for how long through parental controls on video game systems such as the Xbox or Playstation
- * Choosing and playing video games as a family is the best way to understand and enjoy them together
- * The stories, worlds and characters in video games offer playful ways to engage with a wide range of subjects and fuels creativity, interests and imagination

For more advice and support we recommend visiting one of these websites:

 **common sense media*** <https://www.common sense media.org/> - you can use this site to search for books, films, games etc. It gives you suggested age ratings, a summary of content and things parents should be concerned about.

 **UK Safer Internet Centre** <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/> - where you can find online safety tips, advice and resources to help children and young people stay safe online.

 **internet matters.org** <https://www.internetmatters.org/> - provides a number of parental guides (including how to set parental controls) and suggestions on how to support your child to have a positive online experience.

There are more resources available on the school website - just click on the safeguarding and online safety section (https://www.carclazesch.org/website/safeguarding_and_online_safety/195817)

If you want any support in helping your child to stay safe online, please get in touch and we will be happy to help you.