



Fortnite: Battle Royale (12 +)

Dear Parents

I am writing to you as we are particularly concerned about the number of children, **from Reception upwards**, who are playing on the game Fortnite. As this is a **12+** game, you hopefully share our concerns.

We recognise that, as parents, it is very difficult to know which games are suitable and which are not, especially as we as adults are not playing the games.

Fortnite is immensely popular at the moment (with merchandise such as toys, cards and lunchboxes on sale!) and whilst it does not appear as aggressive as other games as it is bright and the characters are cartoonish, it is in fact an aggressive concept.

Our concerns in particular relate to

- the addictiveness of the game and the amount of time that children are spending on it
- the fact that the children are playing 'live' with potentially 100 other people. We do not know who they are, indeed, they could be adults!!
- the chat facility which means that players can be exposed to offensive language or mature content from strangers.
- the violence and use of guns and weapons
- the rewards and incentives within the game which children get for killing people!!
- the in game purchases which can put parents into financial difficulties

Primary children are at a very impressionable age and we do not want the violence and language to become embedded in their psyche as this can be very dangerous. Indeed, schools are already seeing the impact that this is having on some children's behaviour in school.

Sadly at present, as a school, we have very young children coming into school knowing more about the characters in Fortnite than they do about Fairy Tale Characters!! We appreciate that this may be because they have older siblings and are, therefore, more likely to be exposed to these but it is very important that parents are responsible and vigilant and know the dangers that you may unwittingly be exposing your children to.

As a school community, with our children's welfare a concern to us all, we thought that parents would be grateful for this overview.

Yours sincerely

Mrs McEvoy
Headteacher

