



Dear Parents/ Carers,

Fortnight: Battle Royale

We would like to inform you that it has come to our attention that many children in our school community are playing the online game Fortnight: Battle Royale. Fortnight is an online game (not just a dance!), which includes Battle Royale, where players do not have to pay to play.

In Battle Royale, 100 players compete against each other to be the last person standing in player vs player combat. Users play against people of different ages from across the world, and can talk and interact with each other as they play through the in-game chat feature.

Fortnight has a PEGI rating of 12, PEGI have said this is due to the 'frequent scenes of mild violence. It is not suitable for persons under 12 years of age'. In our school community, the children are not old enough to play this game. This rating only takes into account the content of the game and not the contact element, where players may be exposed to swearing and offensive language from strangers, either through the audio or on-screen text chat.

The game chats cannot be switched off, neither are you able to choose who you can play against. Although Battle Royale is free to play, other aspects of the game are not. There are options to buy packs, which give you access to extensions, bonuses and weapons. These are costly and some parents may not realise that the children have made purchases.

Fortnight does feature violence while players are in combat. The animation of the game is cartoonish; however, it is worth noting that the aim of the game is to defeat other players by fighting against them. Fortnight is currently available on PC, Mac, PlayStation and Xbox and will soon be available on IOS (apple products, such as iPhones, iPads)

St Aidan's CE School advice: As part of our school community, we would like to encourage you to have an open dialogue with your child to involve yourself in your child's online life. If your child is playing Fortnight, asking them how they play the game and what they like about it is a great way to start a conversation. It is important to chat with your children on an ongoing basis about staying safe online. You can also report players who are behaving inappropriately by using the in-game feedback tool. Many conversation starters alongside further information about the game can be found on the following websites:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/parents-guide-fortnite-battle-royale>

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/a-parents-guide-to-fortnite-battle-royale>

We thank you for your ongoing support in this matter.

Mrs Ravenscroft and Mrs Fisher