Woodthorpe Primary School

Woodthorpe Online Safety Newsletter

Online Games

Online games can be a great way for children to stay busy and keep in touch with their friends and family. However, children's access to unsuitable content as a result of gaming is on the increase. There are a variety of other risks involved with online gaming: chances of being bullied, trolling and scams, in-game purchases and opportunities to talk to people that they do not know.

In order to decide if a game is appropriate for your child, there are a variety of things you can do. Firstly, check the content of the game and any chat function, as well relevant age ratings. Secondly, consider who your child could have contact with while using the game; it is possible to turn off or limit chat functions in the settings. It is also important to observe whether the game affects your child's behaviour. Very intensive games can result in short-term behavioural changes, which can be avoided by ensuring that a game is suitable and by limiting a child's playing time. Finally, many games also have opportunities for in-app purchasing. There has been increasing pressure on children to purchase power ups or skins in order to compete against others. In a game's settings, in-app purchases can be turned off, or a spending cap limit can be set on a device or app.

Gaming Advice: Top Tips for Setting Boundaries Around Gaming

For more information or support, please do not hesitate in speaking to Miss Arnett, our computing lead.