



# Online safety at home:

parents and carers newsletter from CJS  
Issue 4  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021

This is the fourth of a six part series of newsletters from CJS about keeping our children safe online and about encouraging them all to treat others with care and respect.

Technology is hugely valuable for education, as well as a way to keep in touch with friends and family. However, it's important we all consider how we can support children's online safety during post-lockdown, and in the event of further lockdowns. Here's some information about what your child may enjoy online and what you can do to help keep them safer:

## Online gaming

Online games are social activities, and most have features that allow children to chat with others whilst they play.

For information about the positives of gaming, the risks of in-game chat and measures you can take to help protect them, watch this short video: [In-game chat: a guide for parents and carers](#).

The PEGI (Pan European Game Information) rating system can be a useful tool to help you decide what online games are appropriate for your child.

The age categories are for PEGI rated games are: 3, 7, 12, 16, 18.

The number is the **youngest age at which a child should play the game**. There is also a 'Parental Guidance Recommended' category for some apps.

Gaming is popular with both children and adults and can help to cure that lockdown boredom! If your child is gaming, you may have some questions about how to keep them safer. If so, check out - [gaming: what parents need to know](#).

For a guide on the apps, sites and games your child might enjoy, visit: [Net Aware](#).

For more information on the PEGI system and other factors to consider before deciding what's suitable, read [Gaming: what's appropriate for your child](#)

## Safe Online Gaming

The symbols on a game show you what content is included.

They work like the text on a film or TV show that says it contains violence or swearing.

**Violence:** this means the game contains some form of violence. There won't be any violence if the game has an age restriction of 3. If the age restriction is 7, the violence will be non-realistic or non-detailed. Games rated 12 can include violence in a fantasy environment or non-realistic violence. The 16 and 18 age restrictions can have more realistic-looking violence.

**Bad language:** for games rated 3 or 7, there won't be any swearing. There can be mild swearing for games with an age restriction of 12. There can be more expletive swearing in the 16 and 18 age restrictions.

**Fear:** this symbol might be on games rated 7 if it might show some pictures or sounds that could upset young children. It might be on games rated 12 if there are horror effects or sounds but no violence.

**Gambling:** these games might teach or encourage gambling. Gambling is only allowed in games with the 12, 16 or 18 age restrictions.

**Sex:** this symbol can be on games rated 12 or above. The higher the age restriction, the more explicit the game can be.

**Drugs:** this means the game refers to or depicts the use of illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco. This is only allowed in games with age restrictions of 16 and 18.

**Discrimination:** this symbol can only apply to games rated 18. It means the game contains stereotypes of religious, ethnic, or national groups. These could encourage hatred.