



# Important Safeguarding Information for all parents/carers

**Safeguarding**



**Children**

Dear Parents/Carers,

At the start of the new academic year the staff and governing body review our Safeguarding policies and procedures in line with current Government legislation.

This is also a priority of Worcestershire County Council who have appointed a new officer who has improved communication to schools, works with agencies and provides termly network meetings.

Our review in school has highlighted some key areas which we would like to focus on, both in school and to provide the support and information you may need at home.

These are:

- Some top tips for online games, such as, 'Fortnite'
- Support to ensure that devices are set up and parental controls enabled.
- The safe use of mobile phones and other devices for parents and children.
- The Government's recent work on 'Relationships and Health' education.
- To inform you about Operation Encompass (letter attached from Worcs CC and West Mercia Police.)

In school we use our assemblies, special visitors and our P.S.H.E. lessons ( Personal, Social and Health education) to cover these topics and have had special sessions for parents such as 'E Safety' and NSPCC. We have recently updated our scheme of work to ensure it covers current topics. We have also made you aware of recent changes in Data Protection and stressed the importance of providing us with up to date contact information.

All our learning in school is age appropriate and we also have links in the attached documentation and on our website.

**Our priority is that our pupils are happy, healthy and ready to learn by understanding the importance of a good diet, exercise and the right amount of sleep. This is all part of the partnership we have and is outlined in our 'home school agreement'.**

Thank you for your support

S.Williams

Designated Safeguarding Lead

L.Lawson

Deputy DSL

## Fortnite online gaming.

Fortnite is an online video game where players compete to be the last person standing in a post-apocalyptic world. The most popular version is Fortnite: Battle Royale, which sees up to 100 players pitted against each other to stay alive on an island. Players can build and demolish structures, and collect weapons, supplies and armour to help them along the way.

Players shoot each other using a range of lethal weapons, but the brightly-coloured, cartoon-style graphics and lack of bloodshed mean it doesn't feel too gory or graphic.

To play, the age recommendation is **12 and above** due to 'mild violence', although you don't have to provide your age when creating an account, so younger children can still log on easily.

Fortnite: Battle Royale is **free to download** on PC/Mac, Xbox, Playstation, Nintendo Switch and iOS devices (Apple phones and tablets). It's coming to Android soon.

It has about 45 million monthly users worldwide including the England football team, who reportedly played it in their World Cup downtime.

## What are the concerns?

You may have seen news reports or heard concerns raised about the:

- **Communication between players:** a chat function allows players to talk to each other either over a headset and microphone, or using messaging. Children could use it to speak to strangers, or it could put them at risk of cyberbullying
- **In-app purchases:** players can build up large bills on their parents' accounts by buying cosmetic items like outfits for your character and better-looking weapons (otherwise known as 'skins')
- **Addictive nature of the game:** anecdotal stories tell of children staying up all night to play, or falling asleep in lessons after playing for too long. Some commentators attribute this to the communal feel of the game – you can play with your friends – and the game is different every time you play, keeping it fresh

## What safety options are available to parents?

### Use the parental controls on the gaming device

Most devices allow you to **set time limits** on game play, **set age limits** for content, and **restrict in-app purchases**.

Visit the website 'ask about games' for links to detailed instructions on the device your child uses – the site covers Playstation 3, Playstation 4, Xbox 360, Xbox One, Apple and Android phones, and Nintendo Switch.

### [Ask About Games](http://www.askaboutgames.com/advice/parental-controls)

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The battles in Fortnite last around 20 minutes. When trying to limit your child's screen time, make the most of this natural stopping point. Set a limit in terms of matches rather than hours and minutes, or set time limits in 20 minute increments.

## Turn off the voice chat feature

Speak to your child to make sure they know this feature exists, and encourage them to use the options below if they encounter someone who is offensive or inappropriate.

You can disable the voice chat function in the game if you:

- Open the settings menu (the 3 lines on the right-hand-side of the screen), then choose the 'cog' icon
- Select the 'audio' tab
- You should be able to turn off 'voice chat' by tapping the arrows next to it

You can also 'mute' individual players in the game by:

- Pausing the game
- Hovering over the player you wish to mute
- Selecting the mute button (a loudspeaker icon)

## Make sure your child knows how to report inappropriate behaviour

You or your child can report players who make them uncomfortable using the in-game feedback tool (located in the main menu).

You can also use the 'support' section of the Epic Games site (the makers of Fortnite). You're asked to select the platform you play the game on, the game mode you're playing, and then you can select 'report player'. You can provide more detail such as the player's name, and attach a screenshot.

### [Support, Epic Games](https://fortnitehelp.epicgames.com/customer/portal/emails/new?b_id=9729&q=email+us)

[https://fortnitehelp.epicgames.com/customer/portal/emails/new?b\\_id=9729&q=email+us](https://fortnitehelp.epicgames.com/customer/portal/emails/new?b_id=9729&q=email+us)

### What else can I do?

#### Further tips

- Download and play the game to help you understand it
- Talk to your child about what they're doing online, and make sure they know they can talk to you about anything that has upset them
- Check your bank statements and gaming system account balance regularly to look for in-app purchases you're not happy with, and to make sure your child isn't getting around any passwords you've set up

#### More sources of support

- Non-profit organisation Internet Matters has put together [5 top tips to manage children's screen time](https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/5-top-tips-to-manage-childrens-screentime/).  
<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/5-top-tips-to-manage-childrens-screentime/>
- The [National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children \(NSPCC\)](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/) has a range of resources for parents on internet safety.  
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>
- The NSPCC has also teamed up with O2 to offer advice to parents. You can call their free helpline on 0808 800 5002, or [make an appointment](https://guru.secure.force.com/O2DeskStoreLocator) with an O2 Guru in an O2 store.  
<https://guru.secure.force.com/O2DeskStoreLocator>

#### Sources for this factsheet

This factsheet was produced by [Safeguarding Training Centre from The Key](#).

### [Fortnite, Epic Games](https://www.epicgames.com/fortnite/en-US/home)

<https://www.epicgames.com/fortnite/en-US/home>

### ['Fortnite chat raises stranger danger fears from NSPCC', BBC News, 3 May 2018](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-43988210)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-43988210>

### [Fortnite: all you need to know, Net aware, from the NSPCC and O2](https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/fortnite-all-you-need-know)

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/fortnite-all-you-need-know>

## **Top Tips for Parents for internet games**

### **1. Limit game time**

Parents can use parental controls on Xbox and PC to limit the time your child is playing games on the devices. Be aware that the game is available on iOS and will soon be available on all mobiles. With this in mind, it is worth parents having a conversation with their child to discuss and agree how long you would like them to spend on games. Even though the games last around 20 minutes, it may be hard to take them away from a game mid play. It may be worth using a limit of the amount of matches they play rather than a time limit.

### **2. Restrict payment methods**

Fortnite: Battle Royale is a free to play game, but there are still options to make additional purchases. If a parent does not want their child to make payments, ensure that a card is not associated with the child's account. If a parent is happy for their child to make payments in the game, but want to limit spending, we suggest using a paysafecard, or a games console gift card. These can be purchased in specific amounts, which will limit how much a child spends and removes the need for a credit/debit card to be used with their account.

### **3. Show children how to make a report**

If a child believes a player is playing or talking inappropriately, you should advise them to report them. To report a player, you can use the in-game feedback tool located in the Main Menu of the game. Additionally, a player can be reported in-game when spectating them.

### **4. Prevent them from talking to strangers**

There is an option to turn off the voice chat feature, which means the child wouldn't be able to talk to anybody, including their friends. They will still be able to use the in-app chat and hear other people's conversations. To turn off voice chat, open the Settings menu in the top right of the main Fortnite page, then click on the cog icon. Open the Audio tab at the top of the screen. From there, you can turn off voice chat.

### **5. Use a strong password**

It may seem like a simple tip, but it is important that a child selects a strong password when creating an account, particularly if a credit/debit card is associated with the account. This will help reduce the risk of their account being hacked.

Useful websites for further information:

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

## **IPHONE UPDATES**

As I'm sure that you're aware the newest iPhone update enables users to monitor the devices use through the Screen Time option in settings. This new addition allows users to see what apps and websites are being visited and the duration of the visits.

The new feature also enables iPhone to iPhone control when the devices are paired through apple ID. This long awaited feature will enable you to set time limits on your children's devices on apps and also set up 'downtime' which schedules time away from the screen whilst keeping the important functions available.



Dear parent/carer

Our school has been given the opportunity to take part in a national project, which is being run locally in partnership with Worcestershire County Council and West Mercia Police.

Operation Encompass is a process whereby the police and county council will inform a member of staff if a child or young person has experienced any domestic incident. This will be done prior to the start of the next school day. Information sharing between professional agencies allows school staff to provide emotional and practical support to their pupils experiencing domestic abuse.

Domestic abuse can broadly be defined as 'any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behavior; violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who have been intimate partners or family members. This can include, but is not limited to the following types of abuse – psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional.

Operation Encompass ensures that a member of the school staff, usually the Designated Safeguarding Lead, is given special training, to enable them to liaise with the police and county council in receiving and using the information that has been shared, in confidence.

The sharing of details under Operation Encompass is permitted under Statutory Safeguarding Legislation and in respect of local authority schools under the Crime and Disorder Act (for the prevention of crime) and doing so without the child's or parent's consent is permissible under both pieces of legislation and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

We want to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe, that where necessary, this will be beneficial in helping us to achieve that goal. Please make contact with me or the school's Safeguarding Lead should you wish to discuss the content of this letter.

Attached is a list of local and national advice and support agencies who can help those who may be affected by domestic abuse.

Signed

Mrs S. Williams  
Head Teacher  
Sytchampton Endowed Primary School

## Who to contact

### West Mercia Police

101 (non-emergency)  
999 (emergency)

### Worcestershire Domestic Abuse Service (DAS) and 24 hour helpline

0800 980 333  
[www.westmerciawomensaid.org](http://www.westmerciawomensaid.org)

The service delivers free, confidential advice and support to female and male survivors, young people and children. It is the single point of access to services. You can call if you need a listening ear, advice, access to refuge accommodation, support, advocacy, outreach support or someone to talk to.

### National Centre for Domestic Violence (NCDV)

0800 970 2070

Provides a free, fast emergency injunction service to survivors of domestic violence regardless of their financial circumstances, race, gender or sexual orientation.

### Worcestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (WRSASC)

01905 724514  
[www.wrsasc.org.uk](http://www.wrsasc.org.uk)  
[isva@wmrsasc.org.uk](mailto:isva@wmrsasc.org.uk)

WRSASC is a free, confidential and non-judgemental service for men, women and children (aged 5 & over) who have experienced any form of sexual attack, whether physical, verbal or emotional. Our services include telephone support for survivors and their family or friends via our telephone helpline and face to face counselling support and ISVAs for clients aged 5 years and over.

### Sexual Assault Referral Centre (The Glade)

01886 833555 (18+)  
0800 953 4133 (0-18)  
(West Midlands Paediatric Service)  
0808 178 2058 (24hr self-referral number)  
[www.theglade.org.uk](http://www.theglade.org.uk)

The Glade in Worcestershire offers a free and confidential service to men, women and children who have been victims of rape or sexual assault, accessed via a police or self-referral. Where appropriate clients will be offered a forensic medical examination to gather evidence, advice about pregnancy and sexual health, medication where appropriate, referrals for ongoing and long term support and/or to the client's GP and counselling.

### Worcestershire Family Front Door

01905 822 666 (Mon-Fri, 8.30am-5pm)  
01905 768020 (out of hours - emergency)

If you are worried that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm and needs immediate protection, call the Family Front Door on 01905 822 666 from Monday to Friday 8.30am-5pm, or for out of office hours contact the Emergency Duty team on 01905 768020.

### ChildLine

0800 555 111  
[www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

ChildLine is the UK's free, confidential helpline dedicated to children and young people.



## Who to contact (cont'd)

### **National Stalking Helpline**

0808 802 030

[www.stalkinghelpline.org](http://www.stalkinghelpline.org)

The helpline provides guidance and information to anybody who is currently or has previously been affected by harassment or stalking. The Helpline can provide guidance on the UK law, reporting offences to the police, evidence gathering, and your personal safety.

### **Karma Nirvana**

0800 5999 24

[www.karmanirvana.org.uk](http://www.karmanirvana.org.uk)

Providing support and advice around Forced Marriage (FM), Honour Based Violence (HBV) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Cultural acceptance does not mean accepting the unacceptable. One of our key principles is that we never talk to or engage with your family. Our commitment and loyalty is to you and as we understand the fears when family members become involved.

### **Paladin (National Stalking Advocacy Service)**

020 3866 4107

[www.paladinservice.co.uk](http://www.paladinservice.co.uk)

Paladin assists high risk victims of stalking throughout England and Wales.

### **Victim Support (Local) Victim Assessment & Referral Centre**

01905 726896 (local)

0808 168 9111 (national)

[www.victim support.org.uk](http://www.victim support.org.uk)

We are an independent charity offering free, confidential support to people affected by crime and traumatic incidents. Our services are confidential, free and available to everyone. Victims are usually put in touch with us by the police but you can also contact us directly.

**Men's Advice Line**

0808 801 0327 [www.mensadviceline.org.uk](http://www.mensadviceline.org.uk)

Confidential helpline for men experiencing domestic abuse.

**National Rape Crisis Helpline**

0808 802 9999 (Freephone)

**National LGBT Domestic Abuse Helpline**

0300 999 5428

[help@galop.org.uk](mailto:help@galop.org.uk)

Support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people experiencing domestic abuse.

**Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Claire's Law)**

This scheme aims to provide a formal mechanism for you to make inquiries about your partner if you are worried that they may have been abusive in the past, or about someone else's partner on their behalf. If police checks show that the partner has a record of abusive behavior, or there is other information to indicate that you may be at risk from your partner, the police will consider sharing this information with you or the person you are worried about. The scheme aims to help you to make a more informed decision on whether to continue a relationship and provides further help and support to assist you when making that choice. If you wish to make an application under the Scheme phone 101 (the non-emergency number for the police) and request to complete a Claire's Law application.

