



Computing Matters

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Happy New Year to you all. We hope that Christmas, albeit a distant memory now, was wonderful. This month, with the influx of new games and the cold weather keeping us all inside, we would like to look at PEGI Ratings. What is suitable gaming content and why should we be as vigilant about them as we are about film ratings? We would also like to share some useful links about how to be safe online AND introduce you to our brand new Cyber Ambassadors who will be supporting teachers, children and the rest of the community to stay safe on the internet!

PEGI Ratings:

Much like films that we watch, computer games also come with an age rating. Like films, these do not indicate whether a child will enjoy a game but rather, whether it is suitable for them to play. Many games contain adult content and themes that could be harmful or upsetting. We all know the expression—out of the mouth of babes. Hearing children repeat what they have seen or heard online may be the cue we need as adults to check how appropriate their game play is. While it is not illegal to play a game with an older PEGI rating, it is illegal to sell a game to a child who does not meet the age on the box. Online games do not have to follow this rule, however, so it is highly recommended that parents set up parental controls. <https://videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/parents-controls>.



Safer Internet Day:

On 7th February, it is Safer Internet Day. This year, our Cyber Ambassadors will be running activities for the rest of the school—informed by their training from Hampshire Police and the 4Cs of Online Safety: Content, Conduct, Commerce and Contact

Useful Links:

Have you seen harmful content online? Would you like some support in knowing how to deal with it? <https://reportharmfulcontent.com>

Not sure what is age appropriate content or how to talk to your children about online safety? Follow the link to A Connected World—from the UK Council for Internet Safety and used to support our online safety content. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/896323/

Cyber Ambassadors

On 13th January, these little leaders undertook a full day of internet safety training and are now fully fledged Cyber Ambassadors! Throughout the rest of the academic year and beyond, they will be producing articles for upcoming newsletters; running competitions; leading assemblies and even hosting lessons to help us all be Internet Aware!

