Manor
Primary School

Safeguarding at Manor
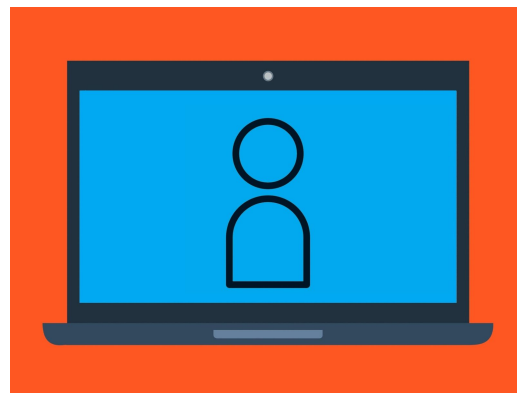## Safeguarding at Manor is everyone's responsibility, every day

Welcome to our new monthly newsletter that will keep you up to date with essential information regarding safeguarding. For our first issue, we will be focussing on Online Safety. Please remember that if you ever have a safeguarding concern regarding your child, or indeed another child, you can always speak to any member of staff or a member of our school's safeguarding team, details of which are available from the school office or via our school website.

Does your child know what personal information is?

Does your child understand the importance of keeping information private? Are they aware that by uploading a video or photo online, they may actually be sharing private information without realising? For example, have they (or even you) ever uploaded a photo or video with the following in it: Wearing their school uniform or wearing a local club shirt? Showing their local area in the background, perhaps inadvertently including street names, shop names or house numbers? Celebrating their birthday? Talk to your children, do they realise the potential consequences of posting their personal information? Do they truly know all of their online 'friends'? By sharing photos described above, a follower might be able to work out what school or clubs they attend, where they live and their date of birth. **Do you want people knowing this information about your child?**

What are your children saying online?

Most games now include some form of chat facility; this can be via a headset or via a messaging feature within the game. It is very easy within these chats to behave in a way that children wouldn't if they were face to face with each other e.g. it is easier to call another child a nasty name via a screen than to say it to their face. These type of incidents can quickly escalate as online environments are often unsupervised so whereas an incident of name calling on the playground is quickly brought to the attention of a member of staff this doesn't happen in an online environment. Talk to your children about how they are speaking to their friends online. Sit with them while they are playing the game to see how your child chats with others, is it always appropriate? Explain to them what to do if they are called a nasty name, how should they respond and what they can do if a situation escalates.

How well do you know this game?

At Manor, we are aware that children as young as 5 years old have been playing the popular game Fortnite, despite it being rated as suitable for children 12 years and over. This game potentially could leave children vulnerable to grooming and them be exposed to foul and sexually explicit language. **We would urge all parents and carers to ensure that they fully understand how their child is playing this game before allowing their child to play it.**

What is Fortnite? Fortnite is an online game, 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 (PVP) 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.

There is no function to control who they are playing against, this could be anyone, child, adult, from any country in the world. **How do you know these people are safe? The answer is YOU DON'T.**

What age rating is Fortnite? Fortnite 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'.* This PEGI rating only takes into account the content in the game and not the contact element, where players may be exposed to swearing and offensive language from strangers, either through audio or on-screen text chat. **We know children at Manor Primary are playing this game when they are all below 12 years of age.**

What do I need to know?
You need to create an account In order to play Fortnite you have to create an account. To create this account you need to provide an email address (which you will have to verify) and display/user name. However you are not asked your age in order to create an account. *Have you created the account for your child?* Are you aware of the risks associated with this game and how vulnerable you are potentially making them?

You are playing against other players
As Fortnite is an online game you will play against players of different ages from across the world. You cannot turn the in-game chats off or choose who you play against.

You can make in game purchases
Although Battle Royale is free to play, other aspects of the game are not. There are packs which give you different access to the full game and extensions, bonuses and weapons. These start at £34.99 and go up to £119.99. The game does ask players to make additional in-game purchases whilst playing, though these are not required to play the game. There have been a number of instances where children have made in-game purchases and run up huge bills for their parents. We have also seen instances of children preferring to spend money on virtual items than in real life which raises longer term concerns of money awareness.

There is animated violence
Fortnite does feature violence when players are in combat with each other, the animation of the game is very cartoonish, and the violence isn't bloody or gory. However, it is worth noting that the aim of Fortnite is to defeat other players by fighting against them. **When your child acts out the behaviour they are seeing in this game, will you be telling them off? It is the exposure to the game and the other players' input that is teaching children it is ok to use inappropriate language and behaviour.**

Is your child playing any of these top selling games?

Kingdom Hearts 3 Suitable for 12 years and over Call of Duty - Black Ops 4 - 18 years and over

Resident Evil 2 - 18 years and over Red Dead Redemption - 18 years and over

Marvel's Spiderman - 16 years and over

How much screen time is your child having?

In the technological world we live in, it is really important that we are aware of and monitor our children's use of technology so that they are not spending too much time online and attached to devices.

What is screen time?
Screen time is the time you spend watching TV or DVDs, using computers, playing video or hand-held computer games, or using tablets or smartphones.

Screen time can be:
- interactive – for example, playing video games, communicating via Skype, or using online tools to draw pictures
- not interactive – for example, sitting still and watching movies, TV programs or YouTube videos
- educational – for example, doing homework online
- recreational – for example, playing games or watching videos for fun.

Screen time guidelines

Child development experts recommend limiting children's daily screen time. This is because real-life interactions with you and others are much better for your child's wellbeing, learning and personal development.

What do screen time limits mean for your child?
Screen time limits are about making sure your child enjoys lots of healthy, fun activities – both with and without screens.
Limits mean looking at the time your child spends on screens and making sure it doesn't get in the way of sleep and activities that are good for their development. These activities include things like physical play, reading, creative play like drawing, and social time with family and friends.

We recommend that children are not playing video games soon to their bedtime as their bodies are still stimulated by the game and cause difficulties getting to sleep. Consider calming activities such as reading before bedtime.

Further Information

We hope you have found our first edition of Safeguarding at Manor useful. Should you have an idea for a future focus, please feel free to let the school office know. For further safeguarding information, you can view our website or visit:
www.nspcc.org - National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
www.saferinternet.org - Parent information online
www.pegi.org - Games advice and age appropriacy