Montrose School

Knowsley City Learning Centres

Online Safety Newsletter March 2021

Omegle

You must be 18+ to use or 13+ with parental permission.

Omegle is a social networking/chat website that **connects two strangers** together for either a text or a video chat. Chats are anonymous unless a user provides this information.

What should I be aware of?

- No registration is required to access Omegle (therefore no age verification) and there are no reporting facilities.
- Users are given an option to save the chat's log and share the link. It is always possible for other users to take screenshots of text and video chats.

We recommend that Omegle is not used by children due to the potential imagery shared and language used which can be particularly explicit.

Further information is available here: https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/globalassets/omegle-parents-guide.pdf



Instagram update



You should be over 13 years of age to set up an account. To create an account, you must enter a date of birth (but this isn't verified). Instagram is used to post photos and videos and users can also DM (direct message), add to their stories (these disappear after 24 hours) and broadcast using IGTV.

A guide to Instagram

If you child is using Instagram, then download a copy of 'A Parent's Guide to Instagram here: https://help.instagram.com/377830165708421

Wellbeing toolkit

Instagram have collaborated with The Jed Foundation (JED) and Internet Matters to create a toolkit which includes tools and suggestions to make your child's experience of using Instagram more positive. The toolkit is designed to help you start conversations with your child about how they use Instagram. More information can be found here: https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/wellbeing-and-safety-on-instagram-advice-for-parents-and-carers/

Additional Links

More tips from Instagram including how to manage privacy: https://help.instagram.com/154475974694511

Ensure that your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if they have any concerns.

Call of Duty An update

Call of Duty games are predominantly rated 16 or 18+ by PEGI (https://pegi.info/), which means you should **be over these ages to play** them. Many of the games receive this rating because they contain **bad language and graphic violence**.

You should also be aware of in app purchases and in game chat.

Further information is available here: https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/parents-guide-call-duty-warzone

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into.
Current as of the date released 1.3.21.

Fortnite An update

Is your child playing Fortnite? It appears to remain popular, so we thought we'd provide an update for you. **It is rated PEGI 12 for frequent mild violence which means it is not suitable for persons under 12 years of age.**

It is important to remember that when rating games, PEGI do not take into consideration the communication features of a game. Fortnite does include a chat facility, which adds further risks.

What is Fortnite?

There are different versions of Fortnite, including a free-to-play Battle Royale game (although money can be spent within the game) where up to 100 players compete against each other.

What do I need to be aware of?

Chatting to strangers and inappropriate language:

Fortnite contains voice and text chat. Due to the nature of the game, your child may be chatting to strangers and may hear inappropriate language. Ensure your child knows how to report players for any inappropriate behaviour. More info here: https://www.epicgames.com/help/en-US/fortnite-c75/battle-royale-c93/how-do-i-report-bad-player-behavior-in-fortnite-a3276.

In app purchases:

All users can purchase V-Bucks directly through the game. This currency can be used to purchase items in the Fortnite store so make sure you don't store your payment details within the game/device and restrict purchases. More information about what in-game purchases are can be found here:

https://pegi.info/page/game-purchases

Addictive nature:

Games such as Fortnite can be addictive. It is important that children play games in moderation and that they continue to exercise and have other interests as well.

Parental Controls



Fortnite includes several parental controls to help you make it a safer environment for your child including disabling voice chat, filtering language and setting privacy settings. Find out more about parental controls here: https://www.epicgames.com/fortnite/en-US/parental-controls. **Also, remember to set up age appropriate parental controls on the device your child is playing on as well.**

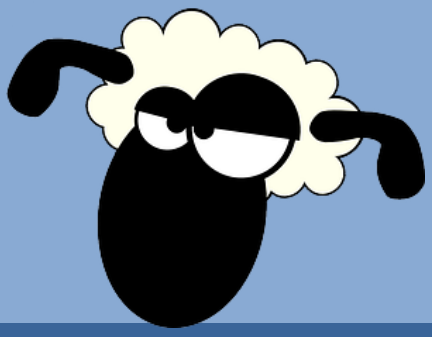
We always recommend playing the game with your child so you can see what they are playing and monitor the sort of chat that they are listening to/contributing to. Remind your child that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if they have any concerns.

Further information

https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-fortnite

Shaun the Sheep Farmageddon Glow Trail App

Get active in your garden or other outdoor space with this updated app from Forestry England which features Shaun the Sheep. You will have to complete challenges and solve puzzles. More information is available here: https://www.forestryengland.uk/shaunthesheep



Honk App

Honk is a new messaging app available on iOS devices. Honk state that it should only be used by those over the age of 13+.

The app allows two people to chat, with the other person **being able to see your message as you type it**. You can chat, send images and emojis to each other. There is no send button and there are **only ever two live messages so when a user refreshes the message bubble, the previous message is permanently deleted.**

In settings, you can disable friend requests and select the option to hide from suggestions. You can also view users that you have blocked.

More information is available here including **key safety advice** when using this app: https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/honk/