



Fortnite Battle Royale, commonly simply called **Fortnite**, is a popular video game from Epic Games. It offers a knife-edge gun battle that requires practice, skill, teamwork and fast reactions. The challenge for parents is to limit risks and maximise benefits from Fortnite. Screen time, stranger chat, rage at losing and escalating costs can seem overwhelming. However, with the right advice, this is a game that parents can make healthy and valuable for their children.

What rating is Fortnite?

PEGI rate Fortnite with a Parental Guidance label. It is rated for 'Teens' on Google Play and **12+** on the App store for frequent/intense violence.

What should I be aware of?

Along with suitability, it's worth checking the online communication settings on the game to ensure children aren't talking to strangers. The game has considerable in-app purchases that you need to be aware of as well, and set up passwords on credit cards associated with the system.

For more information about how to set up parental controls, pins and further guidance about the risks of Fortnite, please see the Polwhele House Home Learning website and [What Age Rating is Fortnite? And How to Keep Your Child Safe \(natterhub.com\)](#)

Age-rating information:

Age ratings are used across different types of online content and platforms to guide on what is suitable for different ages according to the level of risk that it will pose to children. Most popular content and platforms – from the films and TV shows you stream, to the games you play and the social media you use – will have an age rating.



Healthy screentime:

We're often asked how long children should spend on their devices each day. Childnet have created a blog discussing why it is difficult to specify a limit and what you should consider. You can read it here:

[Screen Time Guidance for Parents and Carers | Childnet](#)



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GROWING CORNWALL'S FUTURE

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POLWHELE HOUSE ONLINE SAFETY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & FAMILIES

Dear Polwhele House Families,
We hope you find our Lent Term Online Safety information helpful.

You can find out more information and see further guidance on our Online Safety for Parents webpage: [Online Safety Information - Polwhele House School Learning](#)

We welcome communication with our families about any concerns they have about online safety. Please feel free to email the Office or complete the 'Contact Us' form on the webpage above.

This term we are celebrating and exploring Safer Internet Day 2024 and Empathy Week 2024

Be smart on the internet

- S SAFE** Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information - such as your full name, email address, phone number, home address, photos or school name - to people you are chatting with online.
- M MEETING** Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' or carers' permission and even then only when they can be present.
- A ACCEPTING** Accepting emails, IM messages, or opening files, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems - they may contain viruses or nasty messages!
- R RELIABLE** Information you find on the internet may not be true, or someone online may be lying about who they are.
- T TELL** Tell your parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online. You can report online abuse to the police at www.thinkuknow.co.uk

www.kidSMART.org.uk
Visit Children's KidSMART website to play interactive games and test your online safety knowledge. You can also share your favourite websites and online safety tips by Joining Hands with people all around the world.

BE KIND ONLINE

It can be very easy online for children to behave in a way that they wouldn't if they were face to face with each other. Talk to your child about how they are speaking to others online and encourage them to talk to people online with respect and kindness, like they would if they were face-to-face.



Dr Linda Papadopoulos (Internet Matters Ambassador) provides tips on how you can help your child to be kind online in this YouTube video, such as teaching them how to be inclusive and think about how they would like to be treated online themselves: [Internet Matters Ambassador Dr Linda provides tips to be kind online \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...). Ensure that your child understands that if they receive unkind messages (or see something that worries them) then they should not reply or engage in conversation with them, but that they should tell a trusted adult. You can use the tools within an app to report any offensive or hurtful content as well as block people so they cannot contact you again in the future.

Unicef have a comprehensive area on their website for teens, which talks about what Cyberbullying is and how to stop it: <https://www.unicef.org/end-violence/how-to-stop-cyberbullying>

Childline also have a lot of information about Cyberbullying, including advice to those that might be bullying: [Bullying and cyberbullying | Childline](https://www.childline.org.uk/...)

INSTAGRAM: Is your child on Instagram? **You should be over 13 years of age to set up an account.** Instagram is used to post photos and videos. Users can also DM (direct message), send disappearing messages, add to their stories (these disappear after 24 hours) and broadcast live. Instagram have now introduced new age verification software to help confirm the age of users. Any user who tries to change their age will have to upload an ID document or take a video selfie. You can find out more here: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/blog/instagram-rolls-out-age-verification-for-users>



ONLINE LEARNING AT POLWHELE HOUSE

Being online is an integral part of children and young people's lives. Social media, online games, websites and apps can be accessed through mobile phones, computers, laptops and tablets – all of which form a part of children and young people's online world. The internet and online technology provides new opportunities for young people's learning and growth, but it can also expose them to new types of risks. At Polwhele House, E-safety/Online Safety is a fundamental part of the school's safeguarding and child protection measures.

- Our chosen monitoring and filtering system is Sophos.
- All teaching staff are trained in Online Safety.
- Online Safety is taught through lessons of: Computing, Life Skills and across the curriculum when relevant and appropriate. It is also covered in assemblies.
- All pupils, parents/carers, staff, volunteers and Managing Council members are expected to sign an agreement regarding the acceptable use of the school's ICT systems and the internet. Visitors will be expected to read and agree to the school's terms on acceptable use, if relevant.

NEWS



CEOP: Updated 4-7s website and guide.

This updated website from CEOP Education is designed for children to visit with their parents/carers. The children answer a series of questions as they work towards collecting badges. You can find out more here: [CEOP Education 4-7s website \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/...)

Online Safety with Google



As part of Google Families, Google have a hub of resources that you can use including conversation starters with links to additional tools and advice and information about parental controls. Google also provide you with resources to help your children build healthier habits and stay safe online. There is also a selection of ideas on how to use technology as a family in a fun and engaging manner such as exploring the world and learning how to code. You can access the hub here: [Google Families | Empowering children to safely connect, play and learn online](https://www.google.com/families/...)