

Online Safety Newsletter



“Technology is not the problem. It is how we use it!”

Yet another craze is sweeping the online safety world. I can't seem to go into a school without Fortnite being mentioned. The big concern is that it's a very open platform and children are being contacted by strangers. This has been confirmed by the NSPCC in some recent research.

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.



Safety guidance and things to be aware of:

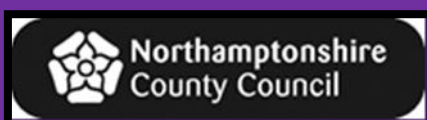
- The game has an age limit of **13+**
- Turn off the voice chat system
- The text message service within the game cannot be turned off.
- Messages cannot be blocked, so anyone can send anyone messages.
- Be very careful syncing a bank card to the game, in the game you can buy skins and other items to personalise your avatar. These items cost real money, prices range from £34.99 to £119.99.
- Fortnite is currently available on PC, Mac, PlayStation and Xbox, and will soon be available on IOS (apple products). It is downloadable from the Fortnite website, this download gives access to both the free and paid for versions of the game.
- There is animated violence within the game
- Parents are advised to talk to their children about the game and the dangers
- Children should play the game with an agreed time limit, gaming can be very addictive.
- Keep technology downstairs in a family room, parents can then keep an eye on what is going on
- Children wearing headsets is dangerous as we can't hear who they are talking to.
- Children need to come away from the game before they go to bed. Bedrooms should be digital free zones.
- Set up an online safety family agreement at home.

It's really important parents or professionals have a **conversation** with children about the game and online safety

- What do they enjoy about the game?
- How do they keep themselves safe on the game?
- Where would they go to get help?
- Can they help and support others online, if so how?



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