



Laura Pearce
Headteacher

Friday 5th March 2021

Dear Parents,

Re: Online Gaming

Gaming, or playing electronic games via consoles such as X-box, smartphone apps, computers or other devices has become a popular activity for many children. Online gaming often involves interaction with other computers and live players. It is fun for children to connect with others, but they also need to understand how to protect themselves so gaming remains an enjoyable activity. As a parent, it's important to understand what the risks are and how to help your child navigate the gaming world. Please view the [Parents Guide to Gaming](#) on our school website

Protect your child's personal information

Talk to your children about what is meant by 'personal information'. Children need to know what is appropriate to share and what is not. Names, birthdays, age, address, contact information, photos with identifiable information such as school uniform and logo all count as personal information. While it is fun to engage in games with different players, children should retain a level of anonymity to protect themselves from those who might not have the best intentions.

- 1. Secure your child's accounts**
- 2. Make passwords long and strong**
- 3. Have your child/ren use an avatar rather than an actual picture of themselves**

As a parent, you may sometimes feel worried about the feelings and behaviours your child experiences around gaming, as well as the amount of time they spend gaming. Along with many other families, you may be finding it difficult to create a healthy balance around screen time.

You can find information on how to support your child with gaming on the Young Minds website. Click the link below to view parental supporting information.

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/parents-guide-to-support-a-z/parents-guide-to-support-gaming/>

Please also visit the [Parental Guide to Online Safety](#) page on our school website as it gives more advice on internet safety.

Yours sincerely,

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