



St. Michael's C.E. (Controlled) Junior School

Church Lane East, Aldershot, Hampshire, GU11 3SS

Interim Headteacher: Mr Mark Sammes

Inspired by Him, we serve the community of St Michael's by creating an inclusive learning culture where all differences are respected, where courage is shown to face and overcome adversity, and resilience is embedded in our journey to success so we can be the very best we can be.

18th October 2021

Dear Parents,

It has come to our attention that there are a number of children that are playing computer games or watching T.V. programmes that are intended for an older age group. Exposure to such material can have a harmful effect on children and there is evidence to suggest this can lead to them using inappropriate language and violence within school. It is particularly concerning that some pupils talk of games such as 'Call of Duty' and 'Grand Theft Auto' which are both rated as 18. It is important to note that the age ratings 12, 16 and 18 age ratings are mandatory and that it is illegal for a retailer to supply any game with any of these ratings to anyone below the specified age. The computer ratings for games are explained on the reverse of this letter.

Over the last few weeks we have also noticed that children have started to play some quite aggressive games on the playground. These games have originated from a Netflix series called Squid Games. This programme is rated 15, so none of our children should be watching it. It is extremely violent and not appropriate for young children.

Please can we ask you to check that your children can not access anything they shouldn't, as these games have gone viral on Tik Tok/Roblox/Youtube/Fortnite etc. We all know how clever children are with technology and how we need to be one step ahead of them all the time.

As a school we have a duty of care to all of our pupils and will seek further advice from Children's Services if it comes to our attention that children are being exposed to material that is unsuitable for their age.

We would be happy to offer further advice or support on this subject through our Family Support Worker Ali Lee, who can be contacted via the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M. Sammes

Headteacher





The content of games given this rating is considered suitable for all age groups. Some violence in a comical context (typically Bugs Bunny or Tom & Jerry cartoon-like forms of violence) is acceptable. The child should not be able to associate the character on the screen with real life characters, they should be totally fantasy. The game should not contain any sounds or pictures that are likely to scare or frighten young children. No bad language should be heard and there should be no scenes containing nudity or any scenes referring to sexual activity.



Any game that would normally be rated at 3 but contains some possibly frightening scenes or sounds may be considered suitable in this category. Some scenes of partial nudity may be permitted but never in a sexual context.



Video games that show violence of a slightly more graphic nature towards fantasy characters well as video games that show nudity of a slightly more graphic nature will fall into this category. Any bad language in the category must be mild and fall short of sexual expletives.



This rating is applied once the depiction of violence (or sexual activity) reaches a stage that looks the same as would be expected in real life. More extreme language, the encouragement of the use of tobacco and drugs and the depiction of criminal activities can be included in this category.



This adult rating is applied when the level of violence reaches a stage where it becomes gross violence and/or includes elements of specific types of violence. In general terms it is where the level of violence is so visually strong that it would make the reasonable viewer react with a sense of revulsion. This rating is also applied where the level of sexual activity is explicit which may mean that genitals are visible. Any game that glamorises the use of real life drugs will also probably fall into this category.