



St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School

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Headteacher – M Armstrong

Tuesday 8th May 2018

Dear Parent / Carer,

FORTNITE APP ADVICE

More and more of our children are talking about the app 'Fortnite' and the NSPCC have released advice for parents as a result of the growing number of e-safety concerns surrounding the game. "Apps, sites, and games such as Fortnite: Battle Royale can be great opportunities for young people to play and engage online," said Laura Randall, the NSPCC's associate head of child safety online. However "in light of emerging concerns about the risks children could be exposed to, we are urging parents to be aware of Fortnite's features," said a spokesperson for NSPCC.

- Voice and text chat systems in the popular Fortnite game are leaving children open to being contacted by strangers, warns the NSPCC. The warning comes after research by the charity suggested 25% of children had been contacted online by strangers.
- Parents are advised to turn off the voice chat system in the game to ensure children avoid inappropriate contact, in addition the text messaging system in the game could not be disabled.
- Options in the main settings menu in Fortnite did not let players block text messages sent to them, said the NSPCC.
- It also advised parents to closely monitor the amount of money their children were spending through the game's online store, which lets keen players buy skins and other items to personalise their in-game avatar.
- Fortnite is believed to have about 45 million registered players, with up to three million playing it at the same time.

It is "vital" that parents talk to their children about the games they played and how they could avoid harm.

The NSPCC said parents should:

- Let children know they can talk to them if upset or worried by anything they see online.
- familiarise themselves with what their children do online and understand why they like particular apps or games.
- agree family rules on how to use apps, sites and games.
- use privacy settings and parental controls to keep children safe.

We hope this information is useful and thank you for your continuing support.

Mrs R Culley
Assistant Headteacher

Friendship, Spirituality, Resilience, Respect, Humour, Honesty, Kindness, Citizenship & Peace

Loving, learning, growing together with Jesus