



# Safeguarding Newsletter 5

## Summer Term 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to this month's Safeguarding Newsletter. At Amotherby School, your child's wellbeing—both offline and online—is our top priority. As technology becomes a bigger part of children's lives, we want to support families in creating safe and age-appropriate digital environments.

### Online Gaming: PS5 and Age Recommendations

Many of our pupils enjoy playing games on the PlayStation 5 (PS5), and while gaming can be fun, creative, and even social, it also comes with risks that parents need to be aware of.

Here are some **important things to know about PS5 gaming and age ratings**:

- **PEGI Ratings:** Games have official age ratings (e.g. PEGI 3, 7, 12, 16, 18). These are *not just recommendations*—they are based on the content of the game, including violence, language, gambling, and more.
  - **PEGI 3 & 7** – Generally suitable for all ages.
  - **PEGI 12** – May include mild violence or suggestive themes.
  - **PEGI 16 & 18** – Contain realistic violence, strong language, and themes inappropriate for children.
- **Online Interactions:** Even games rated PEGI 3 can allow players to interact with strangers online. This poses risks of inappropriate language, bullying, and contact from adults posing as children.

Popular games that parents should **double-check ratings and content** for:

- *Call of Duty* (PEGI 18)
- *Grand Theft Auto V* (PEGI 18)
- *Fortnite* (PEGI 12)
- *FIFA* (PEGI 3, but includes in-game purchases and online play)
- *Minecraft* (PEGI 7)

### Parental Advice: How to Monitor and Support Safe Gaming

Here are practical ways to stay involved in your child's gaming life:

#### Check the Game Ratings

- Visit <https://pegi.info/> to look up game ratings and understand what each symbol means.

- Avoid letting your child play games that are not age-appropriate—even if “everyone else is playing them.”

✓ **Set Up Parental Controls**



- The PS5 includes robust **Parental Controls**:
  - Limit play time.
  - Restrict access to age-inappropriate games.
  - Turn off voice chat or messages with strangers.
  - Block spending on in-game purchases.
- Visit the PlayStation website for step-by-step guides.



✓ **Play Together or Watch Gameplay**

- Ask to watch them play or sit with them occasionally. It shows interest and gives you a better sense of what they're experiencing.
- Talk about what happens in the game and how they interact with others online.

**WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD**

If you are worried about a child’s safety, please do not hesitate to contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputies straightaway.

If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police on 999

**DSL Team**



**Mrs Wade - DSL & Headteacher**



**Miss Cooper - Deputy DSL/Assistant HT**



**Miss Douthwaite – Deputy DSL**



**Miss Harrison - Deputy DSL**

**We can be contacted via the office or by telephone on:**

**01653 693 675**

# Be smart on the internet

 **Childnet**  
International  
[www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)



**S**

**SAFE**

Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information when chatting or posting online. Personal information includes your email address, phone number and password.

**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. Remember online friends are still strangers even if you have been talking to them for a long time.



**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**

Someone online might lie about who they are, and information on the internet may not be true. Always check information with other websites, books or someone who knows.



**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](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

**THINK  
U  
KNOW**



[www.kidsmart.org.uk](http://www.kidsmart.org.uk)

**KidSMART**



Visit Childnet'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.

