

ONLINE SAFETY BULLETIN

AUTUMN TERM 2017—FOCUS: Online gaming

Written by staff and pupils at

Newmarket Academy and Moulton CEVCP School



current

More and more children are playing games against players world-wide.

Games that are frequently played against strangers include the following:

- FIFA [3 yrs]: A football game where players can use text speak and their voice via microphones/headset to communicate with other players.
- Minecraft [7yrs but 13 yrs to have an account] : Players are able to build their own worlds and 'hang out' with other players. Players can use text speak and their voice via microphones/headset to communicate with other players.
- Overwatch [12 yrs] : Players pick a hero and complete a mission. Players can use text speak and their voice via microphones/headset to communicate with other players.
- Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six Siege [18 yrs]: Team up with strangers to complete missions as part of a counter-terrorist team.

in the press

SOURCE: METRO news: A man has recently been jailed for grooming an 11 year old child online before sexually assaulting him. The 26 year old launched a 16 month campaign of 'controlled abuse' using X-Box Live. The man first contacted his victim three years ago before visiting him daily. He manipulated the boy and dominated him to the point where the boy felt that he was isolated from his friends and family. The boy was assaulted on two occasions.

Full story: <https://news.sky.com/story/how-my-son-became-an-online-grooming-victim-10340714>

SOURCE: Sky News: A 13 year boy became a victim of grooming and sexual assault. There were a number of perpetrators, ranging in age from early twenties to fifties, and the incidents occurred over a 6 month period. The boy's parents reported a sudden, drastic and negative change in their son's behaviour at home and at school. Their son was seen by a police officer (ChildLine/victim of cyberbullying); the GP (for panic attacks) and, because of the change in his behaviour and educational progress, his school also became involved.

"None of those people suspected the cause might be grooming/sexual abuse, nor did my wife ... nor did I," added the boy's father.

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Child Chat

Our Online Safety Ambassadors shared their parents' tips for helping them to stay online:

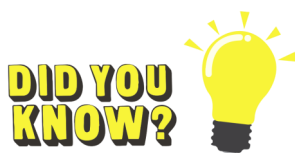
- Only buy age appropriate games or strangers will assume that you are an adult, so they might use inappropriate language.
- Set time limits for screen time.
- Switch off the WIFI if your child is having difficulty stopping playing on their device.
- Use computers and tablets in family areas, not in bedrooms.
- Apps such as 'OurPact' can track usage and gives parents the ability to freeze apps on devices at certain times
- Make your child buy apps through an adult iCloud account so that you can see what they are buying.

Current Staff Concerns

At **Moulton School** staff become concerned when we hear about how much online use by children is unsupervised. Children sometimes report inappropriate language and name calling whilst playing online versions of Minecraft and other X-Box games and other games that are 18+ rated.

At **Newmarket Academy** ... staff are concerned that parents do not understand the capabilities of gaming devices. Some parents are unaware that their child is playing against strangers on the world-wide platform.

- 83% of 10-11 year olds in Suffolk now have access to either a smartphone or tablet.
- 58% of 10 year olds say they have been taught to stay safe online by a parent or carer.



- 14 year olds are the group most likely to say they have experienced threats to harm, homophobic bullying/aggression.

- 64% of 11 year olds learnt about online safety from parents and carers - by age 15

this drops to 44%.

Source: Suffolk CyberSurvey

We held our first Online Safety Ambassadors (OSA) meeting this term at Moulton Primary School. Our OSAs were fantastic—they were knowledgeable, open and willing to share their expertise.

Thank you to the staff and pupils at Newmarket Academy and Moulton CEVCP School who have provided the information for this Online Safety Bulletin. We hope that we can all work together to ensure that our pupils are safe and happy when online.



When was the last time that you...

- Checked the games that your child is playing online. What is the nature of the game and for what age is it deemed suitable?
- Asked your child if they have experienced or used inappropriate language?
- Talked to your child about stranger danger, including strangers online?

Where can I get more advice?

Online Safety Leads: Mrs Shipp (Moulton CEVC) and Mr Fisher (Newmarket Academy)

Visit the websites below—they all have online safety pages

