Hello,

I am writing to share some information about computer/console/ video games. We have had a couple of incidents where pupils have spoken about playing games which are rated way above the child’s age range.

As a matter of E-Safety, the school advises that parents/carers consider the potential emotional and behavioural impact of these types of games. Also, if the game has an online multiplayer function your child may be exposed to inappropriate language from other players.

Many children say they watch their older brother or sister play these games, or ‘play them at their cousin’s house’, so it is important to be aware of what your children are being exposed to.

Some parents may not know the rating of a game – it is printed on the front or back cover. A pirated (copied) game may not have a cover included. The website link at the bottom of the attached leaflet goes to a website where you can search for a game and it will inform you of the rating.

Below are some general descriptions of why a game is rated a certain age. I am sure you will agree some of the possible content is totally unsuitable for children at primary school.

http://www.pegi.info/en/index/id/33/media/img/320.gifPEGI 3 games won’t have a violence descriptor but may contain “Tom and Jerry” slapstick violence if it is not considered disturbing.

http://www.pegi.info/en/index/id/33/media/img/321.gifPEGI 7 games flagged with a violence descriptor may include “non-realistic violence towards fantasy characters” or “implied violence”.

http://www.pegi.info/en/index/id/33/media/img/322.gifPEGI 12 will have the violence descriptor to signpost “violence towards human like characters” but this must be non-realistic so that bodies don’t remain when killed. This may also include violent sports like boxing providing there is no blood.

http://www.pegi.info/en/index/id/33/media/img/323.gifPEGI 16 games are flagged for “violence towards human characters” who react to being shot as they would in real life. This will often include blood and bodies will remain once they are dead. Sexual content such as simulated sex.

http://www.pegi.info/en/index/id/33/media/img/324.gifPEGI 18 games are flagged for including violence towards humans that may make you “wince” or your “stomach churn”. This includes gross depictions of heads, arms, and legs being removed by way of chain-saw or shotgun and mass killings of civilians. It also includes sexual violence such as rape.

Please contact me if you have questions or concerns about this,

Danny Bullivant (Digital Learning Manager, E-Safety Officer)