

15th March 2023

Parents/Carers

Online Gaming

It has been come our attention that some of our pupils have been playing online games outside of school and we have been advised by parents/carers some of the games are causing changes in their child's emotions and behaviours. Whilst we appreciate that these are decisions for parents/carers we felt that we should pass on this information as some of you may not be aware of the content of the games.

YouTube videos/channels:

Jeffy SML – is a stereotypical offensive disabled (in American language retarded) puppet character on the SML channel. He wears a helmet and pad and has a pencil stuck up his nose and is depicted as slow or dumb. All the puppet characters in the sketches are very stereotypical. The Wikipedia entry for him is long <https://smlfanon.fandom.com/wiki/Jeffy>. The sketches themselves depict casual abuse, swearing, family drama, self-abuse, etc. Sketches also play into pop culture, i.e. squid games.

Alphabet Lore – the original cartoon itself is not too offensive. The letters are stylised and introduce themselves (F is not a happy letter and kidnaps a lot of them) but other letters come to the rescue, morphing into words that can help or superpowers. Punctuation gives them superpowers. The superpowers transformations do involve some muscles being shown, and at one point the letters make the word FART and this is depicted to launch a fart gun (A la Despicable Me) to knock out the bad guys.

For your information - The issue with YouTube videos are the playlists and the algorithms. Anything with the same name may be put in the same playlist even if it is not appropriate, and a lot of content creators/ fans will 'piggyback' off the original. Some of that content is not appropriate but will be lumped together because of the name.

Roblox -Roblox is a world-building tool like Minecraft, but easier to use. Users can create worlds and games that reflect their interests and share them with other players. Due to the current popularity of Horror games, one of these such games is Doors which is a puzzle hide-and-seek game with horror elements. You are stalked by a monster/killer while trying to make your way through the house. Depending on the room you choose may limit the number of players, and the last player left standing wins. Much like "Piggy" on Roblox this has simulated blood. Again, this is all user-created content so not well-moderated or rated.

We have attached two guidance posters from Roblox and NOS with information that you may find useful, together with some helpful links.

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A useful resource is this site from Internet matters: https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/parents-guide-to-roblox-and-how-your-kids-can-play-it-safely/?gclid=Cj0KCQiA0oagBhDHARIsAI-BbqeChdb8fOylo1QWVRGTtmO0SYRbl5KCVBO0qdKoAPuCtPybcNYAyGAaApVSEALw_wcB

Here are a couple of online safety reviews for other horror games:

<https://saferschoolsni.co.uk/huggy-wuggy-online-safety-review/>

<https://saferschoolsni.co.uk/poppy-playtime-online-safety-review/>

We hope you find this information of assistance, which will hopefully allow your children to game safely and without detriment to their emotional or behaviour wellbeing.

Warmest wishes.

Yours faithfully



Angela Howe
Acting Principal