

# Video Games

Dear Parents,

Video games consoles such as PSPs, Xbox's, Playstation's etc... are becoming increasingly more frequent in children's lives. As a school we have noticed more children bringing hand held consoles in for Golden time, and whilst we do not object to them being brought in we are surprised about the violent nature of some of the games the children are playing. Games such as Call of Duty or Grand Theft Auto, which of course are then taken off the children.

Research shows that a prolonged exposure to violent video games, particularly in children, encourages them to become more aggressive and to copy the attitudes they see on these games to resolve conflicts. Researchers have also found that children may become desensitized to violence in the real world around them, less sensitive to the pain and suffering of others and more willing to tolerate ever-increasing levels of violence. A lot of these video games also have bad language, language which is becoming more apparent in school, especially when children get into aggressive situations.

Games rated T (Teen 13+), M (mature 17+) and AO (Adult Only) are not suitable for primary aged children to be playing. The Entertainment Software Ratings Board (ESRB) gives games classifications based on their content. Games such as Halo, for example have an M rating due to multiple weapon choice available to the player as well as the realistic sound effects of the weapons firing and people screaming when they have been injured or killed.

Whereas we can appreciate in homes where older children or adults play such games, younger children may become aware of them, we must protect other children from exposure to unsuitable material in the school setting. Please make sure you are aware of which games your child brings to school.

May we also reiterate that school can not be held responsible for the safe-keeping of consoles and games, and as such, some families may think it is better not to allow them into school.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Yours Sincerely

Miss Jeffery

E safety Co-ordinator