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Responsible use of the Internet at home

Dear parents and guardians,

Over the last 3 -4 months, a number of parents have contacted the school regarding inappropriate use by pupils of the Internet and computer games at home. This has included cyber bullying on social media websites and apps such as Instagram, viewing inappropriate photos and videos and pupils falling out while playing computer games with each other online i.e. Fortnite.

Of course, the use and control of the internet and age rated computer games at home is the responsibility of parents and guardians and not the school, however, some of what goes on does have an effect on pupils' relationships with each other in school and we often have to deal with these fallouts.

All schools teach the children about the importance of e-safety and this is done at Plas Coch through lessons and visits and talks by people from outside the school i.e. PC Marc Jones (School Police Liaison Officer). We will also soon be using an e-safety programme called e-Aware.

We ask you as well for your co-operation in teaching children about e-safety by keeping an eye on what they do online at home i.e. the use of parental controls on devices, keeping an eye on Internet browsing history, keeping an eye on chats through apps and social media sites and ensuring that the content of Xbox, Play Station etc. games are appropriate for your children's age.

I mentioned the game 'Fortnite' above (which is age rated 12) as a game that has been causing issues between some children recently. There was an article in the Daily Post about the game recently which might be of interest to some of you (see link below) as it warns parents about some of the potential dangers of playing the game online:

<https://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/north-wales-news/warning-parents-over-fortnite-game-14502901>

If anyone would like to discuss any of the above or would like more information, you're welcome to contact the school.

With thanks for your co-operation,

Osian Jones