



College Road
Primary School



College Road Primary School

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Tuesday 7th February 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: 18 rated computer games and films

It has recently come to our attention that children as young as 5 years old are playing 18 rated computer games (such as *Grand Theft Auto*, *Gears of War* and *Call of Duty*) and watching 18 rated films.

Under child protection legislation, allowing your child to play or view 18 rated computer games or films is classed as neglect. We know that the parents of children at College Road Primary School want what's best for their children, however, there seems to be a general lack of understanding of the affects allowing children to access these games and films lead to. Academic studies suggest children exposed to 18 rated films and computer games are at a greater risk of sexual grooming and extreme violence, particularly as they enter adolescence and beyond. It also increases the likelihood of children displaying risky behaviour, which may also lead to unhealthy choices and in the worst case scenario, early death. Not only are these behaviours likely to compromise the present and future health of adolescents, they are also likely to cut short their education, impair their employment prospects, and even lead to crime, thus seriously putting at risk other aspects of their well-being, both as adolescents and adults.

Due to the seriousness of the situation and on the advice of Plymouth Social Care, parents and carers of children who are continually allowed to view or play (or watch a relative or friend play) 18 rated video games and films may be referred to Social Care and the Police.

I hope you will all work with us to keep the children of College Road Primary School safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Jo Harvey
Inclusion Co-ordinator



College Road Primary School is a member of The South West Plymouth Education Trust, a co-operative schools trust.