

Online Gaming

Please feel free to share your Gooseberry Alert with students, staff and parents. All that we ask in return, in the spirit of modelling positive digital citizenship, is that you acknowledge *Gooseberry Planet Limited* as the source of your advice.

In the News... In the news... In the news... In the news... In the news...

App Alert: Nintendo Switch

A report in the BBC news website on 21 April 2020 ([Click Here](#)) alerts owners of Nintendo Switch of a wave of hacks where fraudsters have been able to log into Nintendo accounts and use a linked PayPal account to make expensive purchases. Nintendo has recommended that owners activate two-factor authentication to protect their devices.

Gooseberry Student 'Discussion' of the week



Online gaming, especially when schools are closed, gives an opportunity to socialise with school friends, avoid boredom and generally have fun. Playing games can also develop skills such as teamwork and strategic thinking. However, there are disadvantages as well.

Explore the topic:

- What do you like about online gaming?
- What problems have you faced? *Think about content, contact and conduct.*
- How can you reduce the risk of these problems? *Think about PEGI ratings, who you play with, how long you play for, muting, blocking and reporting, in-game purchases.*

Activity: Create a guide for inexperienced gamers on how to protect themselves and report bad conduct. You might like to choose just one device and game and explain its features.

Gooseberry Teacher 'Thought' of the week

Many children will be spending time gaming while they are out of school at present. It can be a positive thing, but it also carries risks. See this month's blog for more information. If you are subscribed to [Gooseberry Play](#), you can use the following Gooseberry Planet scenarios:



Playground: Scenario 9 Online Gaming
Street: Scenario 8 Chat Rooms
Village: Scenario 5 Online Gaming
Town: Scenario 7 Online Gaming
City: Scenario 5 Grooming; Scenario 9 Keeping Healthy Online

We are currently offering free access to our Gooseberry Play product.

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Gooseberry **Parent** 'Message' of the week

You may be struggling to entertain your child in lockdown. Gaming can be fun and sociable but take time to agree some ground rules to help keep your child safe and healthy. Agree time limits, spending limits and the types of game that you approve. Discuss the importance of protecting personal information and work together to create a safe gamer tag and image. Check and secure the privacy settings on your child's devices and encourage younger children only to play with real life friends. Older children playing multi-player games should mute their microphones to avoid contact from unknown players. Remind them to play fairly and to tell you of any inappropriate contact or conversations.



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