

Video games information sheet – age ratings

Playing video games can be great fun for children and adults alike. Gaming can help your child to be more creative, solve problems and learn how to communicate safely online; however some of our primary school children have been playing video games aimed at an adult audience.

This information leaflet aims to give parents the facts about how games are rated by PEGI and how to find out more about their content. We hope this information will help you when deciding which games you are happy for your child to play. Please note that the PEGI rating does not tell you which age group a game is aimed at.

Age ratings on video games

Video games are rated by PEGI - <http://www.pegi.info/en/index/> PEGI provides advice regarding the age suitability of a game.

Games are often rated differently for violence, sexual content etc. Where this happens, only the higher rating will be displayed on the box.



PEGI 16

This rating is applied once the depiction of violence (or sexual activity) reaches a stage that looks the same as would be expected in real life. More extreme bad language, the concept of the use of tobacco and drugs and the depiction of criminal activities can be content of games that are rated 16.



PEGI 18

The adult classification is applied when the level of violence reaches a stage where it becomes a depiction of gross violence and/or includes elements of specific types of violence. Gross violence is the most difficult to define since it can be very subjective in many cases, but in general terms it can be classed as the depictions of violence that would make the viewer feel a sense of revulsion.

An example of a game receiving different ratings is Grand Theft Auto V. This is rated a sixteen for sexual activity, drug taking and criminal activities, but 18 for violence.

The description on the PEGI site provides details of the violent content and the ability to interact with others online (being able to talk to adult strangers online), but does not mention the sexual content and nudity (strippers and simulated sex scenes), because this content has been rated as sixteen:



Grand Theft Auto V

Take2 Interactive Software Europe Ltd

The content of this game is suitable for persons aged 18 years and over only.

It contains: Extreme violence - Multiple, motiveless killing - Violence towards defenceless people - Strong language

This game allows the player to interact with other players ONLINE.

The Games Rating Authority however, does give detailed information on each game that includes lower ratings. http://www.gamesratingauthority.org/pegi/search_aci.html