

Free Online Safety Guide

What parents and carers need to know about Fortnite Chapter 3

Fortnite is one of those rare titles which breaks through from the gaming world to create a wider cultural impact. This success was swiftly monetised, of course, leading to Fortnite action figures, plush toys, branded clothing, stationery, bedspreads and the like. The nature of these products hints at a sizeable proportion of the game's fans being below the recommended age limit of 12.

So how much of a danger does Fortnite pose to its younger players? For starters, the game is fundamentally about using an array of weaponry to eliminate a stream of enemies. As our #WakeUpWednesday guide outlines, however, on-screen violence is far from the highest concern – with potential issues over in-app purchasing, scams and toxic behaviour from other players.

There have so far been 19 'seasons' of Fortnite, spread across three iterations (called 'chapters') in its four years on the market. The developers' gimmick in more recent chapters has been to incorporate popular characters from other franchises – including Marvel and Star Wars – further boosting Fortnite's appeal to younger audiences.

Without wanting to sound blasé, most of the combat in Fortnite is sanitised enough to reflect the game's PEGI 12 age rating. Yet real-world threats lurk within these virtual war-zones – from marathon gaming sessions to other players acting aggressively over audio chat. If you have a young Fortnite fan in your family, our #WakeUpWednesday guide will help you keep them safe when they play.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about FORTNITE CHAPTER 3 PEGI 12

First released in 2017, Fortnite has become one of the most popular games in the world. It currently has over 350 million registered players. Developed by Epic Games, it began life exclusively as a 'battle royale' contest, where up to 100 online player characters would fight – with weaponry including rifles, handguns and rocket launchers – to be the last one standing. Today, it features multiple modes which each offer something different (although some modes, such as 'Save the World', are only available on certain platforms).

IN-APP PURCHASES
Has all of Fortnite to free from the world made for every game, Fortnite has a lot to offer. It's a free-to-play game, meaning you can play for free. However, there are many things you can buy in the game, such as skins, emotes, and more. These are called 'in-app purchases' and can be bought with real money or with 'V-Bucks', the game's virtual currency.

REPEAT SUBSCRIPTIONS
Fortnite now offers a monthly 'Battle Pass' subscription, which gives you access to exclusive skins, emotes, and more. This is called 'Fortnite Battle Pass' and costs £9.99 per month. It's important to note that this is a recurring payment, so you'll need to be aware of when it's due and how much it costs.

COMPETITIVE COMMUNITY
Fortnite has a competitive scene, with players competing for high scores and titles. This can be a source of stress and anxiety for some players, especially if they are not performing well. It's important to encourage your child to play for fun and to take breaks when they feel stressed or frustrated.

STAY AWARE OF SPENDING
Fortnite has a lot of things you can buy, and it's easy to get carried away. It's important to set a budget and to be aware of how much you're spending. You can also use parental controls to limit how much your child can spend in the game.

ENCOURAGE BREAKS
Gaming sessions can get long, especially when you're playing with friends. It's important to encourage your child to take breaks and to do other activities when they're not playing. This can help to prevent burnout and to keep gaming a fun hobby.

MEET OUR EXPERT
Our expert is a professional in the gaming industry who provides advice on how to keep your child safe while playing. You can find out more about our expert and their advice on our website.

POSSIBILITY OF SCAMS
There are many scams out there, and it's important to be aware of them. Some people may try to trick you into giving them your personal information or money. Always be cautious and never give out your details to anyone you don't know.

USER-CONTROLLED CONTENT
Some players of Fortnite can create their own content, such as skins and emotes. This content can be shared with other players, and it's important to be aware of what you're seeing. You can report any inappropriate content to the game's developers.

TALK ABOUT TALKING
Fortnite has a chat system, and it's important to talk to your child about how to use it safely. Encourage them to only talk to people they know and to avoid sharing personal information. You can also use parental controls to limit chat functionality.

DISCUSS OTHER APPS
Fortnite is not the only app your child might be using. It's important to discuss other apps and to be aware of the risks associated with them. Encourage your child to only download apps from the App Store or Google Play and to read the reviews before downloading.

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#WakeUpWednesday

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