



# What parents need to know about FORTNITE: BATTLE ROYALE

## MICROTRANSACTIONS

New Seasonal Themes are released daily, and are only available to purchase within 14 hours of their release. These are cosmetic items, called 'skins', 'gliders' and 'emotes', which change the look of the characters that can be bought in the game shop. These purchased skins have full use of items in the store. Microtransactions are made deliberately for players to purchase small items, such as skins, emotes and gliders, which wouldn't be otherwise a game's normal price. While some Battle Royale related items can play a role in challenges or incentive rewards, cosmetics or by progressing through different tiers, it's important to remember they enhance how they look in the game.

## IT CAN BE ADDICTIVE

Gamers can earn around 200 millions for their work in the game. Children may feel angry if they lose the game and continue to play until they win. This can lead to a cycle of losing and winning, which may make it difficult for children to stop playing. It may affect on it's ability to affect their mental health in the game.

## IT CAN BE PLAYED ON THE GO

The game was released on mobile in April 2018, meaning it can be played without a person leaving their home. Schools have reported that the game is distracting their students while in the classroom. As the game is available outside of the home, parents may not be aware of how long their child is on the game.

## HACKER ATTACKS

Since the first update, there have been 'hacks' of various players, by people who have been successfully hacked compromised by the hackers. Hackers gained access to others accounts in the game and spent millions of pounds to purchase skins.

## TALKING TO STRANGERS DURING SQUAD MODE

Speaking with other players in the game is part of the fun as players can communicate with their friends and other players in the game. Players will normally be speaking freely because in the game, there is no limit to what they can say. In the game, there is no limit to what they can say. However, it is important to remember that when talking to young children, they may be exposed to inappropriate language. Adults should always be present to keep children safe from inappropriate language and teach them the importance of being kind to others.

## 'FREE' TO PLAY

The game is free to play, meaning you don't need to pay anything to play.

## NO PROOF OF AGE REQUIRED

Depending on the game, it is relatively simple. Some have the option to log in with their Facebook or Google accounts or their email address. When signing up with an email address, there is no option of age verification. If your child is under the age of 13, it is important to check if your child has the game downloaded.

## SOCIAL MEDIA SCAMS

There are many accounts on Facebook and Twitter which claim to be giving away free money. Some of these accounts will be moderated by Fortnite's own Live in the Game team. Any genuine payment links Fortnite will be given to the user by themself. They will also be given a link to a secure website where they can enter their details. The website or website may ask you to enter your account name and password to confirm the user's identity. If these details seem too good to be true, they usually are.

## WEAPONS AND VIOLENCE

FORNITE has given the game rating of 12+, even though the game contains violence and weapons such as guns, swords, bows and arrows, etc. Many parents and teachers think that children should not play the game because it contains violence. However, it is often the case that children are more interested in the game than the violence. It is important to remember that the game is suitable for children aged 12 and over.



# National Online Safety

# Top Tips for Parents



## #1 LIMIT GAME TIME

Parents can use parental controls on Xbox and PC to limit the time your child is playing games on their devices. Be aware that the game is available on PC and will soon be available on mobile. With this in mind, it is worth having a conversation with your child to discuss and agree how long you would like them to spend on games. Even though the game last around 20 minutes, it may be hard to take them away from a game mid-play. It may be worth setting a limit of the amount of matches they play rather than a time limit.

## #3 PREVENT THEM TALKING TO STRANGERS

There is an option to turn off the voice chat feature, which means they wouldn't be able to talk to anybody, including their friends. Your child will still be able to use the in-game chat and hear other people's conversations. To turn off voice chat, open the Settings menu in the top right of the main Fortnite page, then click on the cog icon. Open the Audio tab at the top of the screen. From there, you can turn off voice chat.

## #2 RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

Fortnite Battle Royale is a free-to-play game, but there are still options to make additional purchases. If you do not want your child to make payments, ensure your card is not connected with their account. If you are happy for your child to make payments in the game, but want to limit spending, we suggest using a pay-safe-card, or a game's specific gift card. These can be purchased in specific amounts, which will allow you to tell how much your child spends and removes the need for a credit/debit card to be used with their account.

## #4 SHOW THEM HOW TO MAKE A REPORT

If your child believes a player is playing or talking inappropriately, you should invite them to report them. To report a player, you can use the in-game Feedback tool located in the Main Menu of the game. Additionally, you can report a player in-game when spectating them.