

Bowmandale Primary School

E-Safety Newsletter

Apps and Age Ratings

Apps for Primary Age Children

We would like to suggest some age appropriate apps, including some we use in school. They are all available for Apple and Android tablets, are all suitable for children 4 years and over and all are free. All of the apps we are recommending have been tested by our staff on our iPads but we still encourage parental discretion. We have also included some information about games ratings that we hope might be useful.

Scratch Jr

iOS / Android / Amazon Fire

FREE

4+ / PEGI 3 (designed for 5-8)

A drag and drop based introduction to programming using a more basic version of the full Scratch programming language. Key Stage 2 children will use the web version of Scratch as part of Computing lessons, so this app makes a good introduction. Start from scratch or use one of the ready-made templates.

Tynker

iOS / Android

FREE with additional in-app purchases

4+ / PEGI 3 (designed for 9-11)

Learn Programming with interactive lessons and games using a drag and drop interface similar to Scratch or with the Swift programming language for more advanced users. The app also features the Hour of Code and an online community. (Please be aware that, as community projects can be submitted by any user, not all games and projects posted will be appropriate for every age group.)

Lightbot: Code Hour

iOS / Android

FREE

4+ / PEGI 3

Originally developed in America to introduce school children to computer science, the Hour of Code has now been adopted by 180 countries worldwide. We introduce the Hour of Code to Key Stage 2 children as part of our Safer Internet Week activities. Lightbot delivers a step by step introduction to programming using icons to represent

commands and introduces the concepts of procedures and loops. When your child has finished, they can download the Hour of Code certificate. Lightbot also produce two paid apps for iOS, Android and Amazon Fire.

BBC iPlayer Kids

iOS / Android / Amazon Fire

FREE (TV licence required)

4+ / PEGI 3

The BBC app for viewing CBBC and CBeebies programmes on demand. On starting the app the user is requested to set a profile and enter their age to see suitable videos. There is also the option to download programmes for viewing when there is no internet connection.

YouTube Kids

iOS / Android

FREE

4+ / PEGI 3

YouTube Kids provides a filtered version of YouTube and aims to provide a safer experience for children with categories for 'shows', 'music' and 'learning'. An honest disclaimer admits that the quantity of content prohibits the checking of individual videos, but they do provide a button to report any content you are not happy with. The initial setup allows you to set the app for preschool or school age children and there are easy to use options for setting time limits and disabling search.

CBeebies Story Time

iOS / Android / Amazon Fire

FREE

4+ / PEGI 3

This app comes with a selection of interactive stories based on CBeebies and traditional characters plus a library to download lots more. Children have the option to either hear the story read to them or read to themselves. There are also some handy tips about supporting your child with their reading.

Age Ratings

PEGI Ratings

PEGI stands for Pan European Game Information and is the current rating system used for games sold in the UK. While PEGI 3 and 7 ratings are not legally binding, PEGI 12, 16 and 18 are, so it is illegal to sell a game with one of those ratings to someone younger than that age.

PEGI ratings are displayed on games bought for consoles and on apps sold on the Google Play store. In addition to the age, PEGI also employs a system which displays the kind of content which will have been responsible for the rating. The age rating does not take into account the difficulty level or skill required to play a game.



PEGI 3 - The content of games given this rating is considered suitable for all age groups. Some violence in a comical context is acceptable but the child should not be able to associate the character on the screen with real life characters. The game should not contain any sounds or pictures that are likely to scare or frighten young children. No bad language should be heard.



PEGI 7 - Any game that would normally be rated at 3 but contains some possibly frightening scenes or sounds may be considered suitable in this category.



PEGI 12 - Videogames that show violence of a slightly more graphic nature towards a fantasy character and/or non graphic violence towards human-looking characters or recognisable animals, as well as videogames that show nudity of a slightly more graphic nature would fall into this age category. Any bad language in this category must be mild and fall short of sexual expletives.



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 in the 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.



Bad Language - Game contains bad language



Discrimination - Game contains depictions of, or material which may encourage, discrimination



Drugs - Game refers to or depicts the use of drugs



Fear - Game may be frightening or scary for young children



Gambling - Games that encourage or teach gambling



Sex - Game depicts nudity and/or sexual behaviour or sexual references



Violence - Game contains depictions of violence



Online gameplay - Game can be played online

Apple Age Ratings

At the moment, Apple does not use PEGI ratings. Apps on the App Store display an age rating instead. Apps will often display a 'Made for Ages...' label next to the rating as well.

Apple also allow apps to be labelled as 'Made for Kids' which lets developers list them in the Kids category of the App Store. Three sub-categories divide the apps into Kids 5 & Under, Kids 6-8 and Kids 9-11. Apps that qualify for inclusion are reviewed by Apple and must comply with their guidelines. Apps with 18+ content are not allowed to be sold on the App Store.

4+	Apps in this category contain no objectionable material.
9+	Apps in this category may contain instances of the following content that may not be suitable for children under the age of 9: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Infrequent or mild occurrences of realistic violence● Infrequent or mild profanity● Infrequent or mild mature, suggestive, or horror-themed content● Frequent or intense cartoon or fantasy violence
12+	Apps in this category may contain instances of the following content that may not be suitable for children under the age of 12: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Infrequent or mild medical or treatment-focused content● Infrequent or mild references to alcohol, tobacco, or drug use● Simulated gambling● Infrequent or mild sexual content or nudity● Frequent or intense profanity● Frequent or intense realistic violence● Frequent or intense horror-themed content
17+	Apps in this category may contain instances of the following content that may not be suitable for children under the age of 17: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Unrestricted web access, such as with an embedded browser● Gambling or contests● Frequent or intense mature or suggestive content● Frequent or intense medical or treatment-focused content● Frequent or intense references to alcohol, tobacco, or drug use● Frequent or intense sexual content or nudity

References

<http://www.pegi.info/en/index/>

https://developer.apple.com/library/content/documentation/LanguagesUtilities/Conceptual/iTunesConnect_Guide/Chapters/FirstSteps.html#//apple_ref/doc/uid/TP40011225-CH19-SW34