

# Safe Schools and Communities Team

[www.stopthinkdorset.co.uk](http://www.stopthinkdorset.co.uk)



And so this is Christmas, And what have we done, Another year over, And a new one just begun.

Welcome to the SSCT Christmas newsletter, just a sprinkling of information to help you get through the holiday period. We hope you had a safe year and look forward to a safe 2013.

consider when deciding on game ratings.

As a parent ultimately it is down to you to decide if your child should play certain games. I recommend that you remove all the emotional issues surrounding your decision and think clearly about what is in the game and consider whether or not its healthy for your child to be seeing or 'playing' whatever the game contains. For instance, a game rated at 18 containing sexual references, such as Grand Theft Auto, if it were a film would you allow them to watch it?

The advice bit:

Be involved, play the game or watch clips before making a decision. Set boundaries that you all stick to. Check what devices are internet connected and set parental controls on them. Report any unwanted or unsolicited contact that is suspicious.

The link below will take you to a pdf with the details of how to set parental controls for the most popular systems. If you are reading a hard copy of this newsletter then go to the site and click 'Adult Zone' then 'Parents', and finally 'Documents'.

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That's it for this month, remember to *like* us on Facebook [SSCTstopthink](https://www.facebook.com/SSCTstopthink) and follow us on Twitter [@stopthinkdorset](https://twitter.com/stopthinkdorset)

## Sexting update.



As I started with Snapchat over on the left, here is a quick reminder about 'Sexting' (the practice of sending naked or semi-naked images of yourself to others). We are getting an increasing number of reports of sexting, with a worrying new trend of sending videos becoming more common.

To find out more search for 'thinkuknow exposed' on YouTube. This behaviour can have a lasting impact when you lose control of an image.

## Age related products/services.

I promised myself this wasn't going to be a nag, but brace yourself it might go that way. After all we need to safeguard children and young people all year including Christmas.

The PEGI game rating system is used on all games sold in the UK and Europe. The rating for each title is set by the manufacturer along with the content descriptor. They are not independent and have profit to



## Snapchat.

Snapchat - Real-time picture sharing for iOS and android.

This app has been around a while now and many people are aware of it but may not be aware of the power it holds.

In essence it allows you to send an image to a contact/friend that will erase itself after a predetermined time, which you set before sending. (A time between 1 and 10 seconds.)

This can lead to a false sense of security, with teens thinking an image cannot be kept. Whilst it is true it cannot be kept on the device, someone can take a picture of the device screen whilst the image is visible.

So if you don't want someone to have it don't send it.