



Naelscoil an Mhuilinn,

**Bóthar an Ághasaigh,
An Muileann Cearr,
Co. na hIarmhí.**

..... 044-9344754

Uimh. Faics. 044-9347287

15-11-2013.

A thuistí,

It has come to our attention that many children in our school are accessing unsuitable material, in particular, video games, tv programmes and DVD's, all of which are having a negative impact upon them in school, be it in behaviour, attitudes to other people, language and levels of concentration.

We, the teachers in the school are deeply concerned. We know that many of the children in our school are watching tv programmes such as CSI, Criminal Minds, South Park, Family Guy, Reality T.V. shows and the like. These **are not** suitable viewing for any primary school child.

We have grave concerns about certain video games that children have access to, for example, Grand Theft Auto (which, we hear, is on several Santa wish lists this year.) This series of games (there are 5) has been at the forefront of the video game controversy. The general public have been shocked at the level of violence and explicit graphic content in them. There has been much written about the effect of these games on our youth from mental health issues to incidents of extreme acts of violence. We enclose a print-out of the review of Grand-Theft Auto 5 from the IMDb (Internet Movie Database), which we are sure will shock you.

Video games and DVD's all have an age classification for a very good reason. A game/DVD which is stamped 18 is only meant to be seen/played by an adult and the same applies to 15's and 12's, children need to be this age or over to watch them.

Parents need to be mindful also of games/DVD's that their child may play with while visiting other people's houses.

It is also worth mentioning that you need to be vigilant with regard to your child using the internet, both accessing material and using social media (e.g. Facebook). Remember that the internet can be accessed from all smart phones. It is advisable to install some form of parental control on all computers your children may be using (many parents have told us horror stories of their child innocently stumbling upon explicit sites.)

With older children who have mobile phones, we would advise you to keep a close eye on content of text messages, as we have had several incidents of bullying by text between children in senior classes.

We understand that it is a rare occurrence for a school staff to send a letter of this nature out to its parents but we feel it is necessary. We can never be too vigilant when it comes to the safety of our children.

Le mór mheas,

Caroline Mhic Róibín.

Esther Ní Chonchúir.

Valerie de Faoite.

Niamh Uí Chléirigh.

Bríd de Bhial.

Siobhán Ní Shaoraí.

Dara Feiritéar.

Denise Ní Fhiaich.

Gearóidín Ní Mháirtín.

Caitríona Nic Cárthaigh.

Siobhán Ní Chorúin.

Máirín Uí Mhuirí.

Ger Smyth.