

Computer Games....

All games sold in the UK are regulated under a system called PEGI, which makes it illegal to sell 12, 16 and 18 rated video games to children and young people under that age.



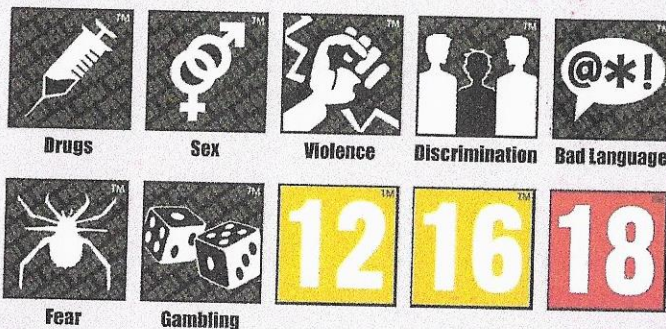
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Computer games and the Law

Under the regulations, retailers could face a prison sentence of up to six months and a fine of up to £5,000 for selling a game to someone under the age-rating classification.

The PEGI system insists that all games sold in the UK offer guidance on the packaging for consumers in the form of visual symbols to indicate the games' content under the headings of reference to sex, drugs, fear, gambling, violence, bad language and discrimination.

PEGI Symbols



"A child will spend on average 2,000 hours in front of a screen between their tenth and eleventh birthdays."



HELPFUL ADVICE

Parents and other adults should not purchase games that are unsuitable for children and young people, as this exposes them to unsuitable adult material. Some games have bad language, mature humour, scenes of a sexual nature, discrimination, drug use, or horror. Games are not rated 16 or 18 because of the level of difficulty, but because of the mature content.

- Check the age classification on the packaging or check the PEGI website.
- Play video games with your children, talk with them about the games they play and why certain games are not suitable.
- Don't let children play computer games late into the night, it could leave them feeling tired the following day.
- Online games can require players to interact with fellow gamers, you do not know who these players are – advise your children not to give out personal details and to let you know if they experience inappropriate behaviour.
- Set limits by using parental control tools on the game console or on your wi-fi router.
- Keep consoles and other digital devices out of the