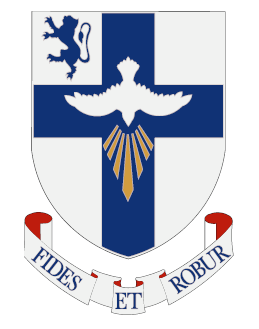
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***Willow Park Junior School***

**Attention: Parents of 4th Form / 5th Form/ 6th Form**

**Computer Games – Caution**

***‘Certain psychological studies purport to show a connection between exposure to violent video games and harmful effects on children. Such exposure, these studies claim, causes minors to act aggressively.’***

Whether or not these games actually ‘cause’ children to be violent is debatable.

However, their power to fascinate boys for hours on end and their portrayal of violence does concern us as educationalists.

In Willow we advise parents to monitor their son’s ‘gaming’ habits and choice of game. We also feel games such as ‘Call of Duty’ & ‘Halo 4’ are inappropriate for ‘Junior School’ boys.

Inevitably, some boys will have older brothers who ‘play’ such games and they will see images etc..

That said, it is the responsibility of Parents to decide on such issues and explain their reasoning to their children at home. There may be ‘generational gap’ but we feel the attraction and fascination that such games can hold over young impressionable children is potentially dangerous. We would ask parents to support us in our endeavours.

Violence, by its nature, can fascinate young minds. When fuelled by commercial interests, it can be made especially ‘amazing’ on screen. Such games could be said to be a form of ‘cyber bullying’ – exploiting young ‘players’.

In this, our ‘Anti-Bullying’ Week, I would ask Parents to be vigilant and ‘responsible’ in monitoring such ‘gaming’ on the various ‘screens’ at home – computer, ipad etc.

Thank you for your support.