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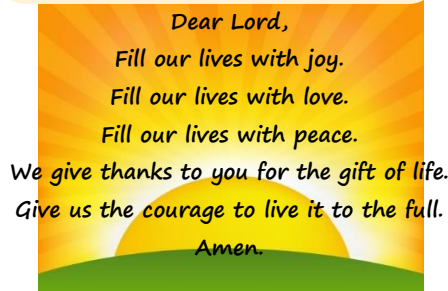
Ellesmere Port Catholic High School

Our Vision...
Excellent teaching.

Our Vision...
Strong Catholic ethos.

Our Vision...
Ensuring every child is known.

Our Vision...
High expectations of everyone.



Our Vision...
Exemplary behaviour and personal standards.

Our Vision...
At the heart of the community.

Our Vision...
Keeping children safe in education.

Our Vision...
Excellent leadership at all levels.



Headteacher Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for supporting the school's uniform expectations, please continue to reinforce these.
Wishing you a lovely weekend.

Mrs Vile

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REMINDER Year 11 Kingswood Colomendy Trip 3rd-5th March

Places are filling up fast! The deadline is Wednesday 18th January to pay your deposit on Scopay. This trip is to Colomendy in North Wales and includes Maths and English revision in the mornings and exciting high ropes activities in the afternoon and evenings. We will leave school Friday lunchtime and arrive back at school around 2pm on the Sunday. Check your emails for further details (sent 6th Jan).

Year 11 Parents evening – Thursday 2nd February 2023

Year 9 Options Evening - Thursday 9th February 2023

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Geography lecture at the University of Chester main campus:

Dr Rich Waller, Keele University on Contemporary Energy Crises and Sustainable Energy Futures.

Wednesday 25 January 2023, 4.30pm - 5.30pm In the Best Building at Chester Uni main campus.

Rich always gives an excellent presentation, and this is pitched very much at the A level specifications.

GCSE pupils are also very welcome to attend. If any parents / colleagues are also interested in sustainability issues, they are welcome too.

There is no charge for this event.

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Cheshire Schools' ELS Book Award 2023

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

- Choose a title from the shortlist
- Take the book out and read it
- When you have finished, write a review, create some fanart, or curate a playlist you think corresponds with the book

It's that easy!

When you have submitted your review you will earn 20 Achievement Points.

Return reviews to Ms. Borsberry in the library.



Get reading!



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At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one game of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

OF WORLD WARCRAFT

AGE RESTRICTION
12+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

World of Warcraft originally launched way back in 2004, and since then the game has blossomed into a major entertainment property. It's spawned spin-off novels, merchandise and even a Hollywood movie adaptation... but why are we still talking about it in 2023? World of Warcraft's most recent iteration, Dragonflight, launched last November and marks the game's ninth major expansion. This latest addition has attracted a whole host of lapsed players back to the game – as well as newcomers jumping into the realm of Azeroth for the first time.

ALWAYS ONLINE

World of Warcraft is an MMORPG, which stands for Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game. Players create a character and head off on mythical quests to earn rewards and become more powerful. The game's environment is absolutely vast, and it can only be played online on a PC or Mac – so there's a high probability of young Warcraft fans wanting to monopolise the family computer.

REGULAR EXPANSIONS

As is common with many MMORPGs, World of Warcraft's developers, Blizzard, release regular expansions for the game (usually every 18 months to two years). So although there's still plenty of content for young players to experience right now, there will almost inevitably be a requirement to continue buying future expansion packs, which tend to cost around £60.

IN-GAME PURCHASES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Just like its genre contemporary Final Fantasy XIV, World of Warcraft requires a monthly subscription fee to play. It's currently £9.99 per month (although you can get it cheaper by signing up to a longer subscription). There are also many items which can be purchased from the in-game store that don't affect gameplay, but instead offer cosmetic alterations to a player's character.

VOICE AND TEXT CHAT

Because World of Warcraft is played exclusively on PCs and Macs, it's easy for users to type out text messages if they aren't comfortable using voice chat. If you'll forgive the pun, that's a double-edged sword because – although there's less chance of them being harassed verbally – it puts young players at increased risk of being trolled or receiving spam through the in-game messaging function.

SIMULATED VIOLENCE

The fact that World of Warcraft is almost 20 years old means that even its most violent battles look slightly cartoonish compared with the level of authenticity in many more modern games. The exception tends to be Warcraft's in-game cutscenes: animated sections which move the plot onto the next stage. These offer more realistic visuals, but they still aren't overly gory or scary.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

World of Warcraft can trigger a powerful "just one more quest" mentality in players (especially young ones) as they rush to secure the next dopamine hit from levelling their character up or earning a new item or weapon. It's also a game that doesn't have a definite "end" – because as soon as a player finishes levelling up one character, they can start afresh with another one.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MANAGE PLAYTIME

World of Warcraft can be an extremely enjoyable game to play with friends, but it's important that your child doesn't let their adventures crowd out school work, socialising or anything else they also enjoy. You could, for example, consider imposing playtime limits – such as a set number of hours to play Warcraft per week, or restricting it to particular days or just weekends.

MAKE IT A REWARD

If your child is excited about getting the next World of Warcraft expansion, you could consider using it as a reward for completing their weekly tasks (you could even call them "quests") like tidying their room or doing their homework. This will demonstrate that you're happy for them to play the game but will also help them to build good, productive habits, reinforcing that hard work earns rewards.

SIGN UP FOR THE FREE TRIAL

Warcraft's monthly subscription effectively "pays" for the regular new content, but there's also a sizeable free trial that lets new players explore the world of Azeroth without paying a penny. Players can play up until Level 20 for free, which is easily several hours' worth of gameplay. If your child does take this option, we'd suggest minimising in-game spending by not linking a bank card to their account.

REMEMBER THE AGE RATING

Due to mild violence and the occasional use of offensive language, World of Warcraft has been rated as appropriate for players aged 12 and over by ESRB (the Pan-European Game Information system, which gives games their age certificate). It isn't really suitable for anyone below that age, so you may potentially have to explain this reasoning to your younger children if they want to play it.

ADVENTURE TOGETHER

Warcraft can certainly be addictive, but playing it together is also a great way to spend time with your child. The game's focus on cooperative questing and battling enemies can make it feel like you've accomplished something as a team, and you'll also be in a prime position to spot any early signs of addiction. Just remember to apply gaming time limits to yourself as well as your young ones!

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor of technology and entertainment website Deerto and has been working in the gaming media for three years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have also been published on influential sites including ian and Techradar, among others.



Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2011/aug/28/world-of-warcraft-video-game-addict> <https://worldofwarcraft.com/en-us/start>



Ellesmere Port Catholic High School

EPCHS6th

INVITATION TO ATTEND

ELLESMERE PORT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

6TH FORM OPEN EVENING

Thursday 26 January 2023

4.30PM – 6.30PM

During the evening you will have the opportunity to meet Sixth Form teachers and subject leaders in their department areas around the school and the chance to speak to current Sixth Form students. This will allow you to find out about the courses we offer and get a feel for the successful atmosphere and highly supportive environment that exists within our Sixth Form.

If you are unable to attend and would like to arrange an alternative time to visit, then please contact us at your earliest convenience.

l.henderson@epchs.co.uk

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PRAY FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE



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