



Safeguarding at GWJS

Our school Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

**Mrs Petchey, Mrs Stolworthy, Mrs Eaglen, Miss Alderton,
Mrs Derer and Mrs Burman**

Please speak to one of these members of staff if you are worried or concerned about the safety of a child.

If you have a safeguarding concern about a child out of school hours, the number to ring is:



CADS – Children’s Advice and Duty Service – 0344 800 8020

Mrs Derer our school Parent Support Advisor and Mrs Burman and Miss Alderton our school Pastoral Leads and ELSA trained staff are on our school playground every morning from 8:45am. Mrs Derer our school Parent Support Advisor is on our playground every Monday, Thursday and Friday morning from 8:45am.

Mrs Burman, Miss Alderton and Mrs Derer are always happy to talk to you about any worries or concerns relating to your child at home or any further support we may be able to offer or signpost you to.

ONLINE SAFETY



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FINAL FANTASY XIV



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The video game Final Fantasy XIV launched in 2010, and, despite being critically panned, it saw an overhaul that has made it one of the biggest success stories in gaming. Its huge world, epic story and versatile combat system have continued to draw in new players, but there's a lot that trusted adults need to be aware of – not least the cost of paying monthly to play.

ALWAYS ONLINE

Final Fantasy XIV is an MMORPG, which stands for Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game. Much like World of Warcraft, players create a character in a chosen class and level up by completing quests to gain power and items. The game requires a constant internet connection, whether you're playing on PC, Mac, PlayStation or Xbox, and there's no option to play offline.

REGULAR EXPANSIONS

As with similar titles in the genre, players can purchase expansions to unlock additional content for the game. Those without the expansions will be locked out of certain new quests and activities, meaning that being people who play regularly will potentially have the next release – sometimes at their earliest, ready-to-buy-it-as-soon-as-possible.

IN-GAME PURCHASES & SUBSCRIPTION FEE

Users need to pay £8.99 per month to play Final Fantasy XIV, but there is a free trial, if someone stops paying, they'll lose access to their character (although they'll be able to pick up the payments again and resume where they left off). If a player forgets to cancel their payments, however, those subscriptions will continue making an automaticity.

VOICE & TEXT CHAT

Final Fantasy XIV lets players send chat messages in-game or speak to each other over voice chat. On the one hand, that provides plenty of chance for how those enjoying the game can interact with their fellow fans. On the other hand, however, it's easier than in many games to receive unprovoked messages from a stranger, with whom you can easily share your play space.

VIOLENCE

While Final Fantasy XIV has a fairly light tone throughout some of its quests, many involve killing enemies and sometimes even with friends. The violence isn't especially strong, more comparable to a cartoon or drama at its best but the core does not make some children feel uncomfortable, if they're not yet able to separate fictional harm from the real kind.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

As with World of Warcraft, there's an element of addiction to Final Fantasy XIV. The gameplay loop can be quite engaging, as minutes turn into hours and hours into days while playing alone or with friends. This can potentially lead to missing real-life events, a lack of interest in any activities not related to the game, and poor education-related responsibilities like homework.

FREE TRIAL

Advice for Parents & Educators

MANAGE PLAYTIME

Playtime limits are a great way to balance the addictive qualities of games like Final Fantasy XIV. They show you exactly why it's still important to enjoy things outside of gaming as well as letting a child enjoy playing online with their friends when it makes sense to do so. It's all well and good to have fun with a game, so long as they're able to step away and reconnect with the real world.

MAKE USE OF THE FREE TRIAL

The Final Fantasy XIV free trial is a generous one, with no limits on how long someone can play and their character into level 70. That's nearly double of hours for a child to go through the game, complete quests, and see if they enjoy it before purchasing expansions or subscribing to a membership. They may well mean to do something else before you need to spend on such as a game.

PLAY TOGETHER

The free trial makes it extremely easy to join many Final Fantasy XIV and play alongside a child, provided they're old enough. Not only does that help you assess if the settings are adjusted for them to enjoy and enjoy, but it may also end up becoming a bonding experience for you both, and one of how family members that want to try it out.

REMEMBER, IT'S A PEGI 16

Despite its often-relaxing nature, Final Fantasy XIV carries a PEGI 16 rating for violence and drugs (although the latter is due to its character smoking a pipe on occasion). There's minimal blood, but characters can drink, gamble (and other players) with weapons and spells. Take a look at some gameplay videos to see if the content is appropriate for a younger player.

Meet Our Expert

Davey Dombey is the Editor-in-Chief of *Games*, and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A longtime fan of online games, he's also a parent, and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about both and fitness, his work has previously been published in sites including *Risk*, *Technistart* and *Play* magazine.



Source: Our full reference list on guide.nationalcollege.com/guides/final-fantasy-14/