What parents need to know about

AGE RATINGS

If you have children, it is understandable to have concerns about the films and TV shows they watch, as well as the games they play. In this guide, we take a look at the two official ways you can assess if a particular title is suitable for your child.

Both the BBFC and PEGI have search facilities on their websites that can be used to look up individual titles so you can check their ratings.

AGE RATINGS

BBFC ratings are broken down into seven age categories:

- **U**: Universal, suitable for all ages
- **PG**: Parental Guidance required
- **12**: Suitable for people aged 12 and over
- **12A**: Suitable for people aged 12 and over; anyone younger must be accompanied by an adult
- **15**: Suitable for people aged 15 and over
- **18**: Suitable for people aged 18 and over
- **R18**: Adult content only available in specially licenced cinemas and specialist retailers

PEGI age ratings are broken down into five categories:

- **3**: Suitable for younger children
- **7**: Suitable for children
- **12**: Suitable for people aged 12 and over
- **16**: Suitable for people aged 16 and over
- **18**: Adult content only

LIMITATIONS OF BBFC RATINGS

It’s important to note that there is no obligation on streaming video services to use or display BBFC ratings. Due to this, we advise that you check the rating online before your child streams the content. It may also be a good idea to watch the content first yourself or discuss it with other parents to help you decide whether or not it is suitable for your child.

LIMITATIONS OF PEGI RATINGS

It’s possible for young people to buy games online without a required proof of age, opening them up to age-inappropriate content without you knowing. We advise that you regularly monitor your child’s gaming activities and maintain an honest and healthy dialogue with them about the online world.

WHAT ELSE CAN BBFC REVEAL?

Accompanied with the age suitability rating, BBFC also provide an additional warning regarding the content and what to expect, such as swearing, sexual content, violence and anything you may consider to be inappropriate for your child. In addition to this, the content is also rated in three levels: frequent, mild or strong.

WHAT ARE THE PEGI RATINGS?

PEGI (Pan European Game Information) is a content rating system that ensures all video games are labelled with a minimum age recommendation. These age recommendations are based on the type of content featured within a game. With each game, PEGI also provide a content descriptor that indicates the potential issues and concerns, including sex, violence, bad language and drugs.

WHAT ARE THE BBFC RATINGS?

Since 1912, the BBFC (British Board of Film Classification) has informed UK residents of the age suitability of films, TV and music videos - providing parents with the information needed to assess whether or not it is appropriate for their child’s age. This applies to cinema releases, DVDs and streaming video services such as Netflix.

PEGI content descriptors are broken down into eight categories:

- **PEO**: PEGI Essentials
- **W**: Violence
- **L**: Sex
- **V**: Drugs
- **S**: Gambling
- **D**: Discrimination
- **L**: Bad Language
- **T**: Sex

PARENTAL CONTROLS

It is a good idea to put in place parental controls for all online accounts which your child may use to purchase or download online games e.g. The App Store, Google Play Store, PlayStation Store and Microsoft Xbox Store etc.

Source: www.bbfc.co.uk

Source: www.pegi.info