Greswell Primary School and Nursery

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Online Safety and Age-Appropriate Gaming – *Grand Theft Auto VI* (GTA 6)

As part of our ongoing commitment to keeping children safe online and supporting families with digital wellbeing, we are writing to raise awareness regarding the video game ***Grand Theft Auto VI* (GTA 6)**, which has become a frequent topic of conversation among older primary school pupils.

While we understand that many children are excited about high-profile game releases and may hear about them through friends, older siblings, or social media platforms such as YouTube and TikTok, we want to ensure parents and carers are fully informed about the content of this title before deciding whether it is suitable for their household.

Age Rating and Legal Guidance

Grand Theft Auto VI carries a **PEGI 18** rating (and an equivalent **18 certificate** in the UK). This means it is legally restricted to adults aged 18 and over, and it is illegal for retailers to sell the game to anyone under that age. PEGI 18 ratings are reserved for games featuring extreme violence, explicit adult themes, and content deemed harmful or distressing for younger audiences.

Why *GTA 6* is Inappropriate for KS2 children

Children in KS2 are at a sensitive stage of emotional and social development. Exposure to adult-oriented media can negatively impact their wellbeing, behaviour, and understanding of healthy relationships. Specifically, the *Grand Theft Auto* series is known for containing:

- **Extreme and Graphic Violence:** Players are frequently encouraged to engage in violent criminal acts, including shootings, carjackings, and physical assaults against police officers and members of the public, often depicted with realistic blood and gore.
- **Explicit Sexual Content and Nudity:** The game includes adult themes, nudity, sexual references, and depictions of strip clubs and sexual encounters.
- **Strong Profanity and Offensive Language:** Frequent use of severe swear words, slurs, and aggressive dialogue is a central part of the game's script.
- **Criminality and Anti-Social Behaviour:** The core premise of the game rewards illegal activity, theft, gang violence, and disregard for the law, without realistic real-world consequences.
- **Drug and Alcohol Use:** Characters regularly consume, sell, and traffic illegal drugs and alcohol.
- **Unmoderated Online Multiplayer:** Online modes expose younger players to open voice and text chat with adults, increasing the risk of cyberbullying, inappropriate conversations, and exposure to strangers.

How You Can Support Your Child at Home

Even if your child does not own the game, they may still encounter gameplay videos, live streams, or short clips online. We recommend the following steps to help keep your child safe:

- **Check PEGI Ratings:** Always look at the PEGI age rating and content descriptors on game packaging or digital storefronts before purchasing or downloading a game.
- **Use Parental Controls:** Enable age restrictions and spending limits on consoles (PlayStation, Xbox, Nintendo), PCs, and mobile devices to prevent children from downloading or accessing 18-rated titles.
- **Monitor Video Platforms:** Set up restricted modes or supervised accounts on YouTube, TikTok, and Twitch, where *GTA 6* gameplay clips are widely shared.
- **Keep Open Conversations Going:** Talk calmly with your child about why certain games are made for adults and encourage them to come to you if they see something online that makes them feel uncomfortable or confused.

If you would like any further advice on setting up parental controls or managing screen time at home, please do not hesitate to contact the school office or speak with your child's class teacher. Useful guidance is also available through **Internet Matters** (internetmatters.org) and the **NSPCC** (nspcc.org.uk).

Should children disclose that they are playing GTA6, it will be considered a safeguarding concern.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our pupils safe both in school and online.

Yours sincerely,

Mr McHugh

Key Stage Lead