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Safeguarding Newsletter

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Tapton School
Darwin Lane
Sheffield
S10 5RG

1. WELCOME

Welcome to our latest safeguarding newsletter. As always, if you have any concerns about safeguarding issues in this bulletin you can contact me at Tapton School.

Kath Tabani

3. VIDEO CHAT AND WEBCAMS

Many children enjoy making video calls as a way of connecting with friends. This is particularly the case during holidays.

Video calls can be made through Facetime on iPhones, video calling in WhatsApp and livestreaming on social media.

It is important that your child is aware that they can be recorded during a video chat. What someone does or say on a video chat could be shared without their knowledge.

Childnet have produced advice on using webchats safely:

<https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/video-chat-and-webcams-teachers/>

CYBER-BULLYING

If your child is being bullied, then try to stay calm and let them know that it is not their fault. It is always useful to keep evidence of any online bullying and inform their school so that they are aware. The following link provides further information:

[bullyingco.uk/cyberbullying.html • https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with/life/bullying](https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with/life/bullying)

2. GROUP CHATS

Group Chats are available on various messaging apps, social media apps and in some games. When your child is part of these groups, they may not know all the other members and it may even include people that they have previously blocked.

Your child may come across inappropriate content and bullying can take place within these groups. Talk to your child about how they speak to others online and encourage them to talk to people online with kindness, like they would if they were face-to-face.

The NSPCC provide further information about group chats here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/socialmedia/chat-apps/>

4. POPPY PLAYTIME

It is important that you are aware that whilst the name and characters suggest a playful game, it is a survival horror game with graphics that may not be suitable for your child. It includes characters such as 'Kissy Wissy' and 'Huggy Wuggy.' Please view this game before allowing your child to play it as it may not be appropriate for them – particularly young children.

Children may be playing the game or just watching videos of it on sites such as YouTube or playing replicated versions on Roblox for example.

Further information

Safer Schools NI have produced this informative:
<https://saferschoolsni.co.uk/huggy-wuggy-online-safety-review/>

12. TIK TOK

You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok.

TikTok is a social media platform for sharing and watching short video clips. Some of the videos may not be appropriate for your child to view and there is also the risk of strangers contacting your child. If your child is using TikTok then make sure appropriate security/privacy settings are applied.

Account set up

As always, it is important that when setting up an account, your child enters their real date of birth as accounts are tailored by age e.g., direct Messaging is disabled for accounts aged 13-15. In addition, advertisements are tailored to their age. By default, accounts for people under 16 are set to private and we would recommend keeping it as this. This means your child must approve follower requests.

You can read more about the other settings available, such as switching off comments and switching on restricted mode here: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account.privacy-settings>.

Family Pairing

This allows you to link your own account to your child's account. You can then set controls such as restricted mode.

You can find out more here:

<https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide/>

Inappropriate content, themes and challenges on TikTok

Whilst against TikTok's guidelines, explicit and inappropriate content can be found on this platform, for example nudity/sexual content and hate speech. We often see viral challenges on social media, some of which can be dangerous. If your child is using TikTok, chat to them regularly about what they are viewing.

Trends and Influencers

We often see trends on social media, for example a latest trend found is around skin care routines, which can lead to children purchasing products that are completely unsuitable/dangerous for their skin. You can find out more here: <https://www.bark.us/blog/skin-care-tweens/>. Influencers are people who have a large following on social media who through recommendations and promotions, influence the behaviour or buying habits of others.

The NSPCC discuss what we need to be aware of here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online/safety-blog/2023-05-16-the-influence-of-influencers/>

Stranger contact

Talk to your child about who is following them online and ensure that they understand that people may not be who they say they are when online. It is important that children know not to share personal information.

Blocking and Reporting

Ensure your child knows how to use the safety features available to them, including how to report comments, direct messages and another user.

Further information

• <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok>

