



# Termly Computing Online Safety Newsletter

## Online Safety Newsletter Summer 2022

### Poppy Playtime

Have you heard of Poppy Playtime? With chapter 2 just being released we thought it important that you're 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

The INEQUE Safeguarding Group have produced this informative briefing for parents and carers:

<https://ineqe.com/2021/12/03/poppy-playtime-online-safety-review/>

### Smartwatches / Fitness trackers



Check what the smartwatch allows your child to do and if available, set appropriate restrictions. Talk to your child about the different settings and if you have, why you have set up the restrictions.

#### What are the risks?

- Some smartwatches allow you to take photos. It is important to talk to your child about appropriate behaviour when taking and sharing photos. Once a photo is shared, they lose control of it.
- Some smartwatches have internet access with the ability to download apps. You need to be aware of the potential of in app purchases and viewing upsetting content.

Depending on the brand of smartwatch, you may be able to set up parental controls for example to restrict content and prevent purchases. More information about Apple Watch parental controls can be found here: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/guide/watch/apd54d0a51fb/watches>

As always, ensure your child knows to talk to you or another trusted adult should they see anything inappropriate or that worries them whilst using their device.



#### Further information

- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/digital-family-basics-smartwatches-fitness-trackers>
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/techguide/smart-toys-and-wearable-gadgets/#smart>

### New CyberSprinters activities (7 – 11 year olds)

The National Cyber Security Centre have released a new set of activities and interactive stories. As well as the original CyberSprinters game (<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/cybersprinters>), you can now access puzzles that you can solve with your child and read interactive stories together. These activities are available here: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/cybersprinters/home-activities>. These resources will encourage conversations about how we can keep our information secure online.

# What's in the news?

Children may come across news that upsets them, worries them, or makes them feel anxious. Newsround have produced this article which you can share and read with your child providing them with tips about what to do if they are feeling sad about the news:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/13865002>

## How can I support my child?

The following two articles provide advice on how to help your child cope with the media coverage of traumatic events, for example the current news around Russia invading Ukraine:

- <https://www.parents.parentzone.org.uk/morearticles/helpingyour-child-cope-with-media-coverage-of-traumatic-events>
- <https://www.childline.org.uk/get-involved/articles/worryingabout-russia-ukraine/>

## Real or Fake?

A lot of children see or hear news updates from social media or via friends so it's important that we talk to them about fake news and provide them with the skills to help them distinguish between real or fake news. So how do we get them to critically think about what they are reading? Here are some tips:

- Check the source (who wrote it).
- When was it written? Is it based on an old story?
- Is it on a reputable news site, for example Newsround?
- You can also use 'fact checker' sites such as <https://fullfact.org/> to see if the news item has already been fact checked and linked to a credible source.

## Further information

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zmvdd6f>
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/tackling-fake-news-misinformation-advice-for-parents/>

## Search Engines

Parent Zone have published this article explaining what you need to know about safer searching and what you should consider. Read the article here:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/search-engines-what-you-need-to-know>

## TikTok update

The NSPCC have created a news article discussing if TikTok is safe for children and provides an overview of how to keep your child safe on TikTok using their safety settings. Read the article here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keepingchildren-safe/online-safety/onlinesafety-blog/child-safe-settings-tiktok>

TikTok have also created a Guardian's Guide designed to provide an overview of TikTok and the tools and controls available:

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



## Supporting young people with SEND online

The internet can be a great place, but we need to be aware of the risks involved with being online. For children with SEND, they may encounter further challenges and therefore additional support may be required. There is a lot of tailored information available to parents and carers and the following links are a great starting point:

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-families-children-with-send/>
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/inclusive-digital-safety/advice-for-parents-and-carers/supporting-children-with-send/>
- <https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/supporting-young-people-with-send-online/>

The above sites cover topics such as helping your child browse safely online, setting appropriate parental controls, activities to help discussions about being online and the steps you can take to help protect your child online.