Online Safety Newsletter- April 2022

Beever Primary School

Last term, we wrote to you regarding our concerns over 'Poppy Playtime'. It had come to our attention that a number of our very youngest pupils in school were talking about/playing this horror survival game.

With chapter 2 just being released we thought it important that we once again made you 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/

Monitoring Apps

Would you like to monitor what your child is doing online? The best app to use will be dependent on what devices your child is using but this helpful article from Internet Matters reviews the top monitoring apps for you:

https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/monitoring-apps-parents-guide/
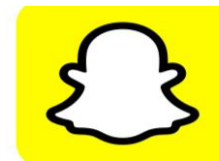
What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is an app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. **You must be 13+ to sign up.** Users can send messages (snaps) to others that can only be seen for a set time period e.g. 10 seconds. Users can also upload snaps to stories which then disappear after 24 hours.

What should I be aware of?

• **Who is your child friends with?** Talk to your child about who their 'friends' online are.

• **Group chats**: In a group chat there may be people that they're not friends with on the app who can then communicate with them in the group. This also increases their risk of interacting with strangers.

• **Snap Map**: The map lets users see where 'friends' are. Location sharing via the map is optional and is off by default (we recommend that it remains off).

• **Snapchat streaks**: Streaks count how many consecutive days two people have been sending Snaps to each other, this can increase pressure to respond daily.

• **Inappropriate content**: Due to the nature of the app your child may come across content that is inappropriate.

• **Screenshots**: Whilst Snaps disappear, users may take screenshots before they do, potentially resulting in them losing control of what they have shared as it could be sent to other people.

• **Bullying:** There is a risk of bullying on all platforms so please ensure your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary.

https://snap.com/safety/safety-reporting/

https://support.snapchat.com/en-GB/a/remove-blockfriends

Safety tips

It is important to talk to your child regularly about what they are doing online and make sure that they know that they should always talk to you or another trusted adult if they have any concerns. Please make sure the appropriate privacy settings are set up and your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary. We would recommend you explore Snapchat with your child and suggest why certain options are safer, for example, setting your account so only friends (rather than everyone) can see your content and only those you are friends with can contact you.

https://support.snapchat.com/en-GB/article/privacy-settings2

Don't forget to talk to your child about being kind online, for example, only posting positive comments, don't say anything they wouldn't say in real life and treat others as they would expect to be treated.