Darell Primary School
E-safety Newsletter April 2024

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/

Talking to strangers online

There are many apps/websites where your child may come across strangers contacting them. Some platforms will allow you to set who can contact your
child as well as switch off communication so ensure appropriate settings are explored and set up. This
article from ThinkUKnow talks about how to protect your child from adult content and contact:
https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Concerned-about-your-child/Online-contact-and-staying-safe/

Protecting children from radicalisation and extremism

There's a chance that your child may meet people online or visit websites that could lead them to adopting extreme views or experiencing radicalisation.

Curiosity could lead your child to seek out these people, or they could groom your child. They could then encourage your child to adopt beliefs or persuade them to join groups with extreme views and actions.

To protect your child from radicalisation or to learn how young people might be targeted, navigate our advice hub. Explore expert tips on how to prevent radicalisation and where you can go for further information.

Cyberbullying

What is cyberbullying?
Cyberbullying is bullying online and can take many forms such as sending malicious messages, leaving nasty comments, excluding somebody from a group chat, blackmailing or setting up a fake profile. Cyberbullying can take place across many different platforms such as WhatsApp, Snapchat and on games such as Roblox and Minecraft.

What should I do if my child is being bullied online?
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. Show your child how to block and/or report any users/content and review their privacy settings to limit what others can see. You may also wish to set up any parental controls
that are available.

Further information
There is a vast amount of information available online about cyberbullying.
The following links provide further information on types of online bullying,
how to support somebody who is being bullied and who you can contact if
you need any further advice or support.
• https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/online-bullying/

• https://www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/cyberbullying.html

• https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/bullying/

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/social-media/chat-apps/