

# Mugginton Church of England Primary School



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## Staying Safe and Having Fun Online September 2021

We hope you enjoy reading this booklet which we have all made with Mr Green. We have created this booklet to help you and your child solve problems you might find your children getting in to when they are playing apps, games and chatting online.

Inside we have a list of apps which the children in our school know and use and have listed some problems children in school have experienced when they have been online. We hope you find this information useful.

Matthew, Seth and Archie T

Dear Parents,

The boys' explanation above is far better than one I could have produced! The children have worked hard and thought carefully about what they do online and how they can make their experience even better. I would like to emphasise to you that we at Mugginton recognise and want to celebrate the benefits of and the amazing opportunities online communication apps, games and websites can offer everybody. At the same time, we recognise that they can also be the cause of hurt and upset and that children, particularly at secondary school, can get into serious trouble if they do not have the knowledge and support to engage with online apps and games appropriately. We see it as part of our duty to help your child use the Internet safely and happily. This document is part of our ongoing efforts to do exactly this.

I strongly recommend the website 'Common Sense Media'. There is an excellent database of popular apps, games and websites with parent and child reviews as well as recommendations about how to use software safely.

Mr Green

## The Juniors have listed and defined the apps, games and websites they use at home

**Discord**—a chat tool built for gamers by gamers to share content and support each other. While playing a game on their device, users can login to Discord and enter a group chat with other gamers. Age Suggestion, 13 +

**Minecraft**—I love playing Minecraft, I have amazing fun playing with friends and building. It is a fun and interactive game—you can play games other people have built. There is a chat function and a system to keep your child from using bad language. Age Suggestion, 6 +

**Fortnite**—an interactive game where you jump off a battle bus and get guns to try and get victory. We like it because you can play with your friends. You can get a chat bar and children rate it as 10 +

**Zoom**—an app for chatting to people whilst seeing them on screen. The Host makes a passcode you need to join and you have a limit of 40 mins to chat.

**Among Us**—is a good game but has some violence in it. You have to find the imposter on the spaceship who has to kill the crewmates. People can occasionally be swearing or arguing when you join and you should not get involved. Age Suggestion 10 +

**Xbox & Playstation Network (PSN)** — consoles which allow gamers to kick back and enjoy the fun of games but should always be used responsibly. If you hear swearing on the chat you should log out immediately and tell your parents.

**YouTube**—an app and website to watch videos from other people and very funny stuff. But there can be lots of people swearing and you need to be sensible about what you watch.

**Roblox** — In Roblox you can create games for other children to play and play other peoples games. Some of them are okay and a few are bad. On games like Adopt Me you have to trade items and sometimes there are scams. There is a chat box and sometimes people use bad language and you have to log out.

**Omegle**—an app where you can talk to other people. But, you are with total strangers and you can see bad things on it so I advise your child not to go on it! If you use text chat it is a little better but still not great

**Snapchat**—On Snapchat, a person can take a picture and made it visible for a certain amount of time from 1—10 seconds on a timer. Then you can add a note if you want to and then you can send it to anyone if you have their Snapchat username.

**Twitch**—This is an app where you can subscribe to watch people talk about different things. It costs money to subscribe to people so you have to be careful what your child watches.

**TikTok**—You can make videos with filters and write text on it. You can even add stickers and pictures! Your videos can be split so only people who follow you can see them. You should private your account so when someone tries to follow you, you can accept or decline. Sometimes you can see inappropriate things so do be careful.

**Draw.io**—This is a game wherr people draw something and in the chat you need to say what it is but it can cause arguments. I try not to get involved when they are fighting. It is a good game to play if you are careful.

## Negative Online Experiences our Children have had

When I had TikTok, I saw something that made me feel uncomfortable. It was a man showing his muscles. I deleted the app straight away and I don't have it now.

My Brother and I were playing Fortnite and decided to play something different. It was a 2 v 2 but we got stuck on different teams with strangers. They started swearing and saying we wrecked their game and they should ruin ours so we switched it off and did something else.

If someone said something bad I would tell Mummy or Daddy.

Someone was saying means things to me when I was playing Fortnite. He was saying very naughty words. I told my Mum and another friend who was online was helping me and saying nice things to me.

On Fifa I was playing with my brother and I scored a goal and he moaned and cried.

I joined a game of Among Us and we played with four people and they kept voting me out with no proof. They banded against me because I joined. When I carried on they were swearing. I said stop and they started saying nasty things to me. I left and joined a new game.

## Squabbles we have had with children from school

1) I wasn't allowed to play Fortnite for a few days and a friend gave me a call and said 'I have a gift for you, come on and I'll give to you on Creative'. I was in Creative and could hear what they were saying. Bad words and they started swearing at me and my Mum heard. I blocked them and left the game.

### **Our Class Feedback to this problem (anonymous)**

You did the right thing to block them and leave the game. It's good you didn't hear many of the words and your Mum did. If you are friends again now that's really good. The best thing to do is to make up and carry on, if they stop doing bad things, rather than avoiding them

2) So when we were in Lockdown and we were on Zoom, somebody took a video of the Zoom lesson and wanted to post it on a public social media site.

### **Our Class Feedback to this problem (anonymous)**

I know it must be hard that it could have been put on the Internet without your permission but it wasn't. It was done as a mistake and the person knows why we don't do that and has learnt from the near miss. Rather than avoid this person and become friends again—none of us is perfect!

3) When I was at my old school, I had seen someone I knew on a game so I said 'Hi' and they didn't recognise me and said 'Who are you?' I told them who I was and they were pretty mean. They said 'No you're not, unfriend me or I'll hack you.'

### **Our Class Feedback to this problem (anonymous)**

This sounds like it was really horrible. We are sorry you had to experience that. You did the right thing to leave them alone and you do not want friends who behave like that. You treat others like you want to be treated. Now you are at Mugginton you don't need to worry because that won't happen here.

## **Our advice to children and parents about how to enjoy using the Internet safely**

Be kind online like we are kind in school.

If your child every gets into an argument, there are two things you could do: sort it out with them or take them offline.

Never share personal information with people on any apps or games.

If you get nasty random messages from people you don't know you should tell a member of your family or a teacher. You won't get in trouble.

Use Common Sense Media to check the safety settings which are possible on the apps/games you are using (Mr Green's one!).

If somebody sends you a picture of something which you don't like you need to tell somebody straight away. You could ring a friend, tell a family member or a teacher. Never share pictures you have got with other people.