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18th May 2026

Poppy Playtime online game – parental awareness and caution

Dear parents and carers,

I have been made aware that some children in our school have been discussing an online game called '**Poppy Playtime**'. Despite the deceptive toy-like characters, Poppy Playtime is a horror survival video game played in first person as the player explores an abandoned toy factory, fleeing monstrous former toy characters. The best-known character is '**Huggy Wuggy**', a tall blue creature with an enormous grin and very long arms. More recently the franchise introduced the Smiling Critters, colourful animal characters including '**CatNap**' and '**DogDay**', who have become equally or more recognisable to many younger children.

In the UK, '**Poppy Playtime**' officially holds a **PEGI 16** rating for Chapters 2 through to 5, while the earlier chapters are generally rated **PEGI 12**. This means that it is **NOT SUITABLE** for children at our school to be accessing or watching its content. There are many associated online risks, as the game lacks strict age verification. Its spin-off content is also highly prevalent and available on YouTube, TikTok, and user-generated platforms like Roblox.

Please can I strongly recommend that you check the parental settings and the search history on your child's tablet or device should they have access to one. Please can I encourage you to speak with your child about online safety and the associated risks. You can also speak with your child's class teacher if required.

For guidance about online safety, please click on the link for the 'Our Safer Schools' website <https://oursaferschools.co.uk/2021/12/03/poppy-playtime-online-safety-review/>

You can also access the following websites for more information:

Parent Info – Article on Harmful Online Content

<https://parentinfo.org/article/what-your-child-needs-to-know-about-harmful-content-online>

Internet Matters – Dealing with inappropriate

content <https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/inappropriate-content/>

NSPCC – Help with distressing online content

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/inappropriate-explicit-content/distressing-content/>

Thank you for your continued support with helping to keep our children safe online.

Kind regards,

Mrs Bishop

Head Teacher

