

Faringdon Infant School

Part of the Faringdon Learning Trust

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Future of Faringdon; Including all; Supporting everyone to grow

Monday 7th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Concerns about unsafe Internet exposure

We are writing to express our growing concern about the number of children accessing content on YouTube and TikTok relating to the character 'Huggy Wuggy' from the game Poppy Playtime.

The character and game appear to be targeted at children, and indeed the age rating for the game is 8 years plus. However, 'Huggy Wuggy' is the main character from a survival horror game in which players must try to survive the night in a terrifying toy shop full of disturbing, evil toys. The spin off videos and images on YouTube and TikTok are absolutely not appropriate for children of FIS age. We would seriously question its appropriateness for children of 8 years!

We are seeing children who have watched this in fascination via YouTube or TikTok (or because someone else in their household is viewing or playing it) and are either frightened by it or are playing it out in their playtime games and frightening and hurting other children.

Please remember that the minimum age for users of YouTube and TikTok themselves, is 13 years, and many advisory groups suggest that it should in fact be 15 years. YouTube Kids is a much safer option than allowing your child full YouTube access.

Please can we urge you to closely monitor what children are viewing online, and the games they are accessing. Tuesday 8th February is Safer Internet Day, so this is a great time to remember to check filters and parental locks on content and devices. Children's online safety is not just about protecting them from harm via online bullying or direct risk from unsafe adults but is also about preventing emotional and developmental harm by ensuring that the content accessed is appropriate, healthy, and not excessive.

Thank you for your support.

Best wishes,

Mrs Sally Robins

Head Teacher