

'Respectful and resilient; being the best that we can be.'

Timothy Hackworth Primary School



Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2022

### Online Safety Update – Conflict in the Ukraine

[CRC Article 19 – All children have the right to be safe.](#)

[CRC Article 38: All children have the right to be protected and cared for if they are affected by war.](#)

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware, the ongoing conflict in the Ukraine continues to have such a devastating impact on the lives of the families immediately affected in the Ukraine, alongside the rest of the world.

Watching the horrors of war unfold has been very difficult for many adults this week. TV and Radio news are full of information about the appalling and dreadful attacks on the Ukrainian people. Much of the information on TV has, to a certain extent, been filtered, with the most horrific content removed, however, this is not the case on social media.

We have recently become concerned that some of our children are seeing horrific pictures and videos of the war, and some are struggling to cope with what they have seen. There is not one particular app or website that is worse than the others. Pictures and videos of the war are freely available on YouTube, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, and probably lots of other social media sites too. In addition, these pictures and videos are being reposted, so they do not always come directly from the Ukraine.

We recently shared on our school website, information from 'Save the Children' and the BBC website, 'CBeebies', to support parents and carers regarding how to talk to children about what is happening in the Ukraine.

As a school, we continue to protect children from the unpleasantness of war, and the devastation that it brings. Many children in school, due to their very young age, may well be unaware of what is happening. Some children, on the other hand, are very concerned about what is happening. Where children do ask us questions, we will continue, as always, to respond with sensitivity, a sense of calm, and, importantly, being mindful that 'children are children' and ultimately need to be protected from harm. We will always provide a factual answer, which is age-appropriate and sensitive.

If your child is asking you questions about the conflict, you might find the following information helpful:

1. Discuss the questions/concerns with your children. Have they seen upsetting content? Explain what you would like them to do if they see something which frightens them. (Turn the device upside

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down and tell either Mum, Dad, family member or carer, and explain that your child is not in trouble).

2. Carefully consider what social media, if any, is suitable for your children. The minimum age for most platforms is 13, because the content providers cannot guarantee that it is suitable for a younger audience.
3. Set up parental controls on devices. Many apps have settings which try and limit the most graphic content, but even with safety features turned on, content is not guaranteed to be 'child friendly'. The website, 'Internet Matters', <https://www.internetmatters.org/>, is particularly useful in providing advice on most apps and security settings.
4. Talk and listen to your children. We can't pretend this isn't happening, and they may well have questions and worries which are better discussed than kept secret.
5. If you are concerned, then please talk to us, and we will do our very best to help.

Should you have any questions, please contact your child's class teacher, send us an email via our website, or leave a message with our School Office.

Yours sincerely,

*Mrs. L. Boulton*

Head Teacher