



# Online Safety Newsletter: Summer Term 2020

## End of Term

Welcome to the final edition of the Online Safety Newsletter, I hope that you have found the newsletters useful throughout the course of this year.

## Loot Boxes

All games must now carry warnings about in-game purchases using real money, also known as Loot boxes. These ratings will be added to the existing PEGI ratings already displayed on game boxes and in online purchase information. The change comes as the government is set to review the Gambling Act and its fitness for purpose as well as the rising concerns of how these Loot box purchases can be constituted as gambling. When a Loot box is purchased it logs randomised additional features where children find themselves chasing their losses and often over spending, it is widely felt that this is a form of gambling.

## Mental Health

Research completed by the charity Young Minds found that at least 51% of young people found lockdown to have negatively affected their mental health. You can visit <https://ineqe.com/2020/07/08/stress/> for top tips on how parents and carers can help and support children in their care manage stress and anxiety.

## Online Viral Challenges

You may have heard in the news lately that there has been a re-emergence of online viral challenges – remember Momo? The last few weeks has seen the return of **The Blue Whale Challenge**. Reports claim that there are 50 challenges in 50 days that get more and more dangerous. The media can be responsible for raising fear with loosely reported facts and at the time of writing, there is no substantive evidence to say that young people are participating.

However, not all challenges are negative such as the viral Ice bucket challenge that did help raise money for charities. The important thing to remember is that, whilst it is good to stay up to date with such crazes it is important not to indirectly draw attention to challenges by talking about them.

For further help and advice on this topic, and for information on how to access videos on viral challenges and how to talk to children, access the Safety Hub within the Safer Schools App.



## Parler

### Age rating (17+)

Apple rate Parler – Unbiased Social Media as 17+ and Google Play urge 'parental guidance'.

The Apple stores description of this App is 'a non-biased, free speech social media focussed on protecting user's rights'.

This App allows users to create their own community and enjoy content and news in real time. Moderation tools can be applied to filter content. The tag line 'Empower yourself to control your social experience and be a verified member of the community' is used to entice users to the service. This is the App that Katie Hopkins has switched to since she has been banned from Twitter for 'violations of [its] Hateful Conduct Policy' as reported in The Independent newspaper, that in itself should cause alarm bells to ring.

Please see the video on the YouTube channel by Ineqe - [Pause, think & plan: Talking to children about online risk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16lp86lS4hA)

## News Hub

As part of the Safer Schools App the **News Hub** has many areas that will be extremely useful to parents, these include: **News** and **Calendar** which link directly to the ATS school website; **Safety Hub** providing up to date articles to read; **Video Hub** providing the latest safety news in video format and many more.

## Safer Schools Blog

For up to date information of all things Online Safety go here <https://ineqe.com/blog/> to access the blog brought by Ineqe the company that deliver Safer Schools. There are lots of helpful articles and links to further information, especially if you haven't downloaded the Safer Schools App and would like a quick route to useful information to stay up to date with the latest online information.

## Safer Schools App survey

Once you have downloaded and explored the app it would be very useful to hear your views so that you as parents can be best supported in the future. Please go to the **Surveys** section and select the **Safer Schools App parent feedback** survey to share your initial views by answering the seven quick questions.

## Quizzes and Digital Tests

There are a number of Quick Quizzes and Digital Tests to help you test your knowledge, should you wish to try the Digital Tests please use the pin number 7575 to enter the Tests.

## Final Thoughts...

Do you allow your children to have their tech in their bedrooms?

Do you know what your children are doing on their tech?

Do you know what Apps they use regularly and with whom they are in contact with?

Please use this opportunity to talk to your children and find out the answers to the above questions. Better still only allow tech use in the general areas of the house, especially with the younger ones.

## Further support

Mrs McLean is available via email at [h.mclean@archbishoptemple.com](mailto:h.mclean@archbishoptemple.com) for further help and advice should you require any assistance outside of school.