

School Newsletter Pack

Netsafe has created this School Newsletter Pack to give schools and kura ready-made online safety resources to share with their communities. These are easy to cut and paste into communications and modify to meet your school/kura's needs.


However your school communicates with your community, newsletter, socials, you could consider starting to highlight online safety messages. Some of the most relevant topics to start sharing with whānau could include staying safe online, gaming and tiktok. You can also choose topics to respond to events or incidents, like bullying or sharing of images.

Some of these topics are suitable for all ages where some may be more suited for a high school setting. Use your knowledge of your whānau and community to choose the right content.

If you have a particular issue arise in your community and you can't find content in this resource, you can also reach out to Netsafe's education team at education@netsafe.org.nz

What should the newsletter look like?

Every school and kura has their own identity, so every newsletter will look completely different. To give you an idea of what an online safety section in a newsletter could look like, we've put together this example:



School News

Rapere 16 Pepuere/Thursday 16 February 2023

Dear Parents, Caregivers & Whānau

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All you need to know about TikTok

Tiktok is one of the fastest growing social media apps. It's a platform for creating, sharing and discovering short videos – and many young people love it! From new dance crazes to funny clips to animal videos, Tiktok can inspire creativity and bring joy.

But it's important that parents and whānau help their tamariki navigate Tiktok safely. Today we're sharing the Netsafe Tiktok Family Safety Toolkit so you can help guide your whānau to a fun and safe digital experience.



Term Dates 2023

Term 1
31 January - 6 April

Term 2
26 April - 30 June

Term 3
17 July - 22 September

Term 4
9 October - 14 December

Content for School Newsletters All Age Groups

Staying Safe Online

- As our tamariki spend more time online, it's important parents and whānau help them stay safe. Now is a great time to talk to them about how we use the internet and digital technology.
- Netsafe has created an Online Safety Parent Toolkit so parents, families and whānau have all the information they need to talk about online safety.
- If you or anyone in your whānau needs support, you can contact Netsafe on the details below.

Link: <https://netsafe.org.nz/parenttoolkit/>

Possible image:



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- But it's important that parents and whānau help their tamariki navigate TikTok safely. Today we're sharing the Netsafe TikTok Family Safety Toolkit so you can help guide your whānau to a fun and safe digital experience.

Link: <https://netsafe.org.nz/tiktokfamilysafetytoolkit>

Possible image:



Content for School Newsletters continued

Online Safety: Gaming

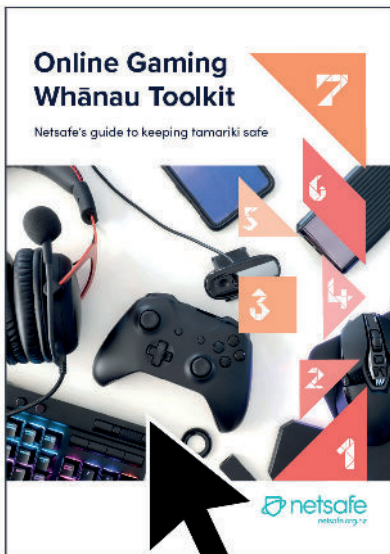
- Eighty percent of tamariki in New Zealand aged 8-17 have played games online. Games can have many benefits: entertainment, social opportunities, coordination development, problem-solving and multi-tasking skills. But, most of all, gaming is popular because it's fun.
- But games can be tough for parents and whānau to navigate. How much gaming is too much? How do I make sure my tamariki aren't seeing inappropriate content or chatting in-game with strangers?
- Today we're sharing [Netsafe's Online Gaming Whānau Toolkit](#) so you have all the resources you need to keep your kids safe.

Links:

<https://netsafe.org.nz/online-gaming-whānau-toolkit-accessible/>

https://youtu.be/rPN_ev1RSDQ

Possible image:



Awareness of Online Harm

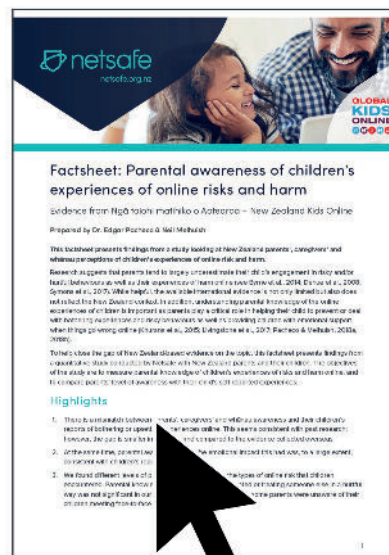
- Many parents didn't grow up with the internet, so it can be hard to imagine how tamariki may use it. But these days, digital technology is a key part of our young people's lives. They use it for learning, communicating and entertainment.
- Netsafe has released research that looked [into Parental awareness of children's experiences of online risks and harm](#). The research found a mismatch between parents' awareness and their children's experiences of upsetting online content.
- To check out the research, and other Netsafe resources, visit this [link](#).

Links:

<https://netsafe.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Factsheet-Parental-awareness-of-childrens-experiences-of-online-risks-and-harm.pdf>

<https://netsafe.org.nz/parent-awareness-child-online-risk-harm/>

Possible image:



Content for School Newsletters continued

Random Chat Online

- How do random chat websites work? And what are the risks for tamariki using them?
- Random chat websites like Omeagle and Chatroulette pair users randomly through text or webcam conversations. The appeal is getting to talk to someone new that the user would never meet. But these websites are designed for adults and often allow nudity and other inappropriate content from users.
- If you're concerned that your young person might be exposed to these sites or you want to introduce parental controls, you can find out more on [Netsafe's Random Chat Websites](https://natsafe.org.nz/random-chat-websites/) page.

Links:

<https://natsafe.org.nz/random-chat-websites/>

Possible image:



<https://unsplash.com/photos/V5vqWC9gyEU>

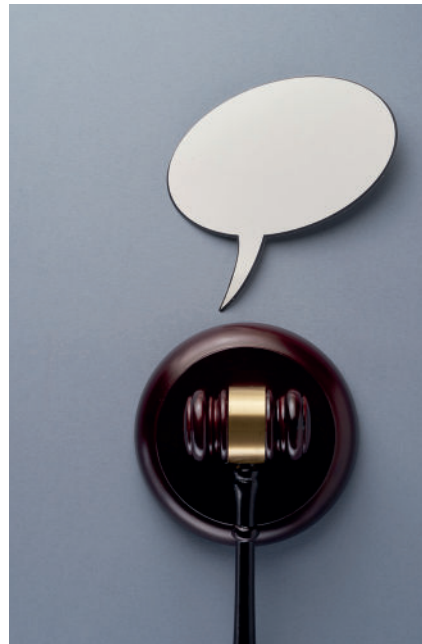
The HDCA for Parents and Whānau

- The Harmful Digital Communications Act (or HDCA for short) is an act passed by Government back in 2015 to help people dealing with serious or repeated harmful digital communications. It covers anything digital like text, emails or social media content.
- The most useful thing for parents to understand about the HDCA is the way the 10 communication principles define what is good or bad behaviour online.
- If you're ever concerned about your young person (or you just want to brush up on your knowledge!) visit [Netsafe's Guide to the HDCA](https://natsafe.org.nz/what-is-the-hdca/).

Links:

<https://natsafe.org.nz/what-is-the-hdca/>

Possible image:



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Content for School Newsletters continued

Staying Safe Online: Bullying

- One in five young people in New Zealand have been the target of online bullying – it can happen to anyone, and it can be hard for parents and whānau to deal with. **[Insert school/kura here]** takes online bullying seriously and would encourage you to chat to your tamariki’s teacher if you have any concerns about online bullying.
- Visit [Netsafe’s Online Bullying Advice for Parents](#) to read more.

Links:

<https://netsafe.org.nz/parents-bullying/>

Possible image:



<https://unsplash.com/photos/5otlbgWJILs>

Staying Safe Online: Scams

- People in New Zealand are losing millions of dollars to scammers each year – and this is just the figures reported to Netsafe so the actual figure is likely much higher!
- It’s important that you and your tamariki to know what to look out for to avoid scams. Netsafe have put their best advice together to help you stay safe online and stay away from scams.
- Read their [scam tips here](#).

Links:

<https://netsafe.org.nz/scam-tips/>

Possible image:



<https://unsplash.com/photos/M8fYycGWuMA>

Content for School Newsletters continued

Staying Safe Online: Snapchat and Privacy

- Snapchat is a popular messaging app that lets users exchange pictures and videos (snaps) that are meant to disappear after they're viewed. Many young people love Snapchat but it's important that they understand how to protect their privacy on the app.
- Check out [Netsafe's Privacy on Snapchat](https://netsafe.org.nz/snapchat-privacy/) page for some helpful information on Snapchat's features. You can also find out more information about privacy, security and safety on [Snapchat's help centre](https://support.snapchat.com/en-GB).

Links:

<https://netsafe.org.nz/snapchat-privacy/>

<https://support.snapchat.com/en-GB>

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<https://unsplash.com/photos/xVRdDDe6M1A>

Privacy and Social Media

- Actively managing your tamariki's privacy settings on the social networks they use can go a long way towards keeping control of their personal information.
- Any information that is easily available online, whether it's an email address, date of birth, or pictures, could end up causing harm if it gets into the wrong hands.
- To help you navigate privacy on social media, Netsafe have put together a guide on [How to Use Privacy Settings on Social Networks](https://netsafe.org.nz/privacy-settings-on-social-networks/)

Links:

<https://netsafe.org.nz/privacy-settings-on-social-networks/>

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Content for School Newsletters continued

Staying Safe Online: Online Grooming

- As young people become more independent online, they can connect and communicate with people they don't know.
- Often this is a positive experience, but sometimes your tamariki could be being groomed or talking to someone who isn't who they say they are. Netsafe's advice explains how unwanted contact works, including grooming and what whānau can do to educate kids.
- Check out the [link here](#).

Links:

<https://netsafe.org.nz/upsetting-content/>

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